Agriculture—1924
Federal Aid.

Alabama.

FARMERS ARE ASSISTED BY GOVERNMENT

Teachers at Tuskegee Told of Work

Tuskegee, Ala.—Declaring that previous to 1906 there was no agricultural extension work among farmers of the South; that the work had its beginning in Mason county, Alabama, 18 years ago under the influence of Tuskegee institute and its founder, Booker T. Washington; that the work among farmers has been extended with 500 demonstration agents to the Alabama, Arkansas, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Florida, Maryland, Mississippi, Oklahoma, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia; that the work is now carried on at a yearly expenditure by the federal and state governments of $408,000; that the incessant demands upon the federal and state governments create an auxiliary organization in extension service for farmers has resulted in increasing the morale of the farmer and in bringing about friendlier relations between the races in the South, T. M. Campbell, field agent for seven Southern states, addressed 378 teachers from 12 Southern states attending the summer school at Tuskegee institute. The occasion was his report on an extended tour of 2,541 miles through Alabama, Mississippi, Oklahoma and Texas, winding up with a visit to the 21st annual meeting of the National Association of Teachers in Colored Schools at Dallas, Tex., July 30 and 31 and Aug. 1.

Other addresses by delegates to the Texas meeting were made by Prof. W. T. B. Williams, field agent for the Slater fund; Clinton J. Calloway, director of the department of rural school building, and Monroe N. Work, director of the department of researches and records and editor of the Negro Year Book, all of Tuskegee institute, stating among other things the high indorsement of the agricultural work among farmers of the South by the national meeting of teachers in schools of the country.

Agriculture—1924.
Condition of.

General.

ALBANY N Y PRESS
MAY 18, 1924

EXODUS OF NEGROES BRINGS DEMAND FOR TRACTORS IN SOUTH

Small Cotton Growers Are Clubbing Together in Handling Crop.

More modern agricultural methods may be forced on the south by the exodus of negro labor to the north. Ever since cotton became king, the small planters have tilled their few acres with the aid of a mule and a negro worker.

Now the laborers are leaving, and the mule is somewhat untrustworthy when left to its own devices. Something has to be done and the farmers are turning to tractors. More tractors are going into certain sections of the south than ever before and a good many are being sold on the cooperative plan. Groups of planters whose lands adjoin are tearing down their fences, clubbing together to buy a light tractor, and thus supplanting the mule.

The more intensive cultivation which will be possible is likely to increase the yield and the added profits will more than pay for the machine the first year.

NEGROES AND SHARE CROPPERS.

Arkansas City, Ark., March 3.
To The Commercial Appeal.

I aften see letters in your paper in regard to the labor situation and also the negro problem in the south, and especially on farms of the south.. I thought I would give your readers a few of my humble ideas along this line, having been raised in the south and having lived there in the delta most of the time since 1889. During this time have used labor in various ways.

In the first place, the only labor we have in the south is the negro (now I am speaking of the farm labor). We all know that the situation is critical, a large per cent lying done north. The only think now is to solve the problem instead of discussing the situation. As to the negro problem, we hear so much about, there is none. The only negro problem we have is talk hatched up by such papers as the Chicago Defender. Other than such stuff as they publish there is no negro problem to solve.

Now, as to the negro labor, in my judgement, if we will change our mode of farming we can very easily solve this problem. We have improved our implements quite a lot in the last several years, but have never changed our methods. Let us abolish the old share crop method and work the negro by the day, and in a short time we will have all the labor we will need. I believe 90 per cent of our negroes want to work by the day because they want to get their money and spend it as they work. The average negro never looks to the future, for today is what he is looking out for and not tomorrow.

I believe every man experienced with them will bear me out in this. The only reason a negro will work a share crop is in order to get by easy on credit. He knows you can't fire him or run him off if he is in debt to you a lot. He also knows that you can't make him work. If you do he will run off, leave you, and since they are so scarce the farmers have run after them until they are no good and clear out of the question to get a good day's work out of him. I can take 10 good plow hands and get more work done than you will with 20 share hands.

Another thing this will do, which in my judgment will be worth more to the country than anything else; it will put the country on a cash basis, which is so badly needed. Pay the negro every Saturday night and let him spend his money. Then he is happy.

Let's hear from other farmers on the subject.

R. P. HAYS.

Negro Labor Never Again Plentiful

JUST after Congress passed the new immigration law, The Progressive Farmer pointed out that it would have very important effects on Southern agriculture. As we then stated, the United States for many years has been receiving vast hordes of low-grade laborers from Southern Europe. These laborers have been largely depended on for factory, mining, railroad, and construction work in the North. With this labor supply from Europe cut off, it is inevitable that Northern industries will draw more and more on the Negro labor of the South for reinforcements. This opinion, expressed by us some months ago, is confirmed by a discussion of the matter in *The Economic World* of New York, which says:—

"It certainly will not be an easy matter to find in our own population unskilled workers to take the place of an annual increment of the half a million or more immigrants for whom unskilled work under American conditions and at American wages has seemed a magnificent opportunity. The first economic readjustment which the new immigration law may be expected to make necessary in this country, therefore, is the competitive drafting of all available groups of unskilled workers in our population to do the rough work of our industries, construction projects, and undertakings of a similar character. . . . The largest group of unskilled workers in the country consists of the Negroes in the South, who are still predominantly employed in raising cotton and other agricultural products. It is now unavoidable that the Southern Negroes, especially those on the farms, should be drawn upon by our industries, railroads, etc., to fill the need for unskilled labor to an extent much exceeding anything heretofore known."

Southern farmers heretofore have often complained of a "shortage of labor" when the shortage was due only to a failure to use modern equipment and machinery. At the same time, it must be admitted that cotton and tobacco require an unusual proportion of hand labor even under the most favorable conditions. But our farmers might as well face the fact that farm labor here in the South in the future is going to be both scarcer and higher priced than ever before. To meet this changed situation, certain changes in our farming policies are necessary, and the wise farmer will be the one who makes these changes in time without waiting until financial disaster forces him to.

The most important change made necessary by the new condition is the enrichment of our soil. Since it is going to be more expensive to cultivate an acre of land than ever before, we must get more out of an acre.

The second change in prospect is the greater use of improved implements and machinery. If we must pay farm labor more per day, then we must get larger returns from a day's work. Horse labor is cheaper than human labor. Improved implements and machinery enable one man to cultivate a larger acreage. By enriching our soils and using more machinery, we can produce enough cotton or tobacco from a much smaller acreage than we are now planting to these crops, while the improved equipment will enable us to grow our own corn, small grain, hay, and feed crops, and so have our "money crops" as true surplus crops.

TENANT FARMING'S SLOW GROWTH.

The recently published Yearbook of the Department of Agriculture contains a study of farm ownership and tenancy in this country which challenges some of the accepted notions about the evils of tenant farming. Although admitting the importance of combating the growing tendency toward tenancy, and recognizing the defects of the system, the report affirms that "farm tenancy, considered as a "method of acquiring the use of land, "is adapted to the special circum-"stances of a large proportion of "farmers because of their lack of "experience and available capital." It furthermore states that many of the evils commonly attributed to tenant farming are in reality due to other causes, including the unequal distribution of wealth, the habits of land exploitation and instability of occupancy due largely to the abundance of land in the recent past, the prevalence of the one-crop system in certain sections, and finally the inexperience and thriftlessness of many individual tenants.

The growth of tenancy has not been so large as is commonly assumed. In 1880 about one-fourth of the farms in the United States were operated by tenants. In 1910 this figure had risen to 37 per cent. In 1920 it was 38.1 per cent. But it is interesting to note that in relation to the total number of persons engaged in agriculture—that is, farm owners, tenants and farm laborers—the increase in the number of tenant farmers during the last decade has been at the expense of the workers rather than of the farm owners. In other words, since 1910 the proportion of farm owners has remained about constant. When considered geographically, there has been a marked decrease in the number of tenant farmers in the Eastern States and an increase in the South and West.

The principal danger in tenancy—that it would lead to absentee landlordism such as has been an evil in parts of Europe—seems as yet to have been avoided, although, as the department's Yearbook states, "there "is enough both of absenteeism and "concentration of ownership to jus-"tify real concern." But at present not more than 10 per cent. of the farms are owned by absentee landlords. This shows little change since 1900. Most of the landlords are either active or retired farmers, and the remainder (about one-third) are bankers or merchants in small towns who have come into ownership through inheritance or speculation and who themselves had their origin on farms.

That tenancy is not confined to the United States alone may be seen from the fact that, whereas 38.1 per cent. of the farms in this country are held by tenants, in England nearly 89 per cent. are so held. When considered on a basis of farm acreage, the figures show that, where America's tenant farmers operate 27.7 per cent. of the farm lands, in Australia they operate 78.9 per cent., in New Zealand 58.5 per cent., in Belgium 54.2 per cent., in France 47.2 per cent., in Japan 46.3 per cent. and in the Argentine 38.5 per cent.

The principal justification for concern about the growth of tenant farming lies in the change in the underlying economic conditions of the country. Till recently, there has been a relationship between tenant farming and the opening up of new lands. But the last of the good farm lands have now been taken up. No longer is the wastefulness which characterized the growth of American agriculture economically profitable. No longer are tenant farmers transient pioneers. As the urban communities develop, the demand for fixed agricultural settlements increases. Gradually the country is being driven to-

ward conditions of production similar to those brought about in Europe through the pressure of population. The great danger is that at the same time the European tenancy system may be adopted. This, unlike our own, is dependent upon permanent rather than on changing conditions inherent in the growth of a pioneer nation.

NEGRO LABOR NEVER AGAIN TO BE PLENTIFUL SAYS PROGRESSIVE FARMER

Just after congress passed the new immigration law the Progressive Farmer pointed out that it would have very important effects on southern agriculture. As we then stated, the United States for many years has been receiving vast hordes of low-grade laborers from southern Europe. These laborers have been largely depended on for factory, mining, railroad and construction work in the north. With this labor supply from Europe cut off it is inevitable that northern industries will draw more and more on the negro labor of the south for reinforcements. This opinion, expressed by us some months ago, is confirmed by a discussion of the matter in the Economic World of New York, which says:

"It certainly will not be an easy matter to find in our own population unskilled workers to take the place of an annual increment of the half million or more immigrants for whom unskilled work under American conditions and at American wages has seemed a magnificent opportunity. The first economic readjustment which the new immigration law may be expected to make necessary in this country, therefore, is the competitive drafting of all available groups of unskilled workers in our population to do the rough work of our industries, construction projects, and undertakings of a similar character. The largest group of unskilled workers in the country consists of the negroes in the south, who are still predominantly employed in raising cotton and other agricultural products. It is now unavoidable that the southern negro, especially on the farms, should be drawn upon by our industries, railroads, etc., to fill the need for unskilled labor to an extent much exceeding anything heretofore known."

Southern farmers heretofore have often complained of a "shortage of labor" when the shortage was due only to a failure to use modern equipment and machinery. At the same time, it must be admitted that cotton and tobacco require an unusual proportion of hand labor even under the most favorable conditions. But our farmers might as well face the fact that farm labor here in the south in the future is going to be both scarcer and higher priced than ever before. To meet this changed situation certain changes in our farming policies are necessary, and the wise farmer will be the one who makes these changes in time without waiting until financial disaster forces him to.

The most important change made necessary by the new condition is the enrichment of our soil. Since it is going to be more expensive to cultivate an acre of land than ever before we must get more out of an acre.

The second change in prospect is the greater use of improved implements and machinery. If we must pay farm labor more per day, then we must get larger returns from a day's work. Horse labor is cheaper than human labor. Improved implements and machinery enable one man to cultivate a larger acreage. By enriching our soils and using more machinery we can produce enough cotton or tobacco from a much smaller acreage than we are now planting to these crops, while the improved equipment will enable us to grow our own corn, small grain, hay and feed crops, and so have our "money crops" as true surplus crops.

Negro Labor Never Again Plentiful In Southern States

From the Progressive Farmer

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Farmers as Tenants of the State

Taxes on farm lands are rapidly approximating the annual value of farm lands. Unless there is a check in the movement, farm land in most states will be virtually confiscated by the state and farmers will practically be tenants of the state. These significant statements were made by Dr. Richard T. Ely, Professor of Economics at Wisconsin and Director of the Institute for Research in Land Economics and Public Utilities, in an address before the Tri-State Development Congress, called by the Governors of Wisconsin, Michigan and Minnesota, at Duluth, January 24. Dr. Ely called attention to the fact that while taxes are continually tending to increase, farm land values have dropped about twenty per cent from their peak in 1920, according to estimates of the Department of Agriculture. Field agents of the Department, while collecting data for 1920 in the prosperous agricultural region of Chester County, Pennsylvania, found that taxes were absorbing 66 per cent of the net rent of all farms rented for cash. Dr. Ely showed by graphs that in Ohio and Kansas, for instance, the "up-curving" line representing tax increases is gaining so rapidly on the line representing land value increase that it will not take a long period for the two lines to meet. And when they meet the government, by taking the entire net income of the land, will have taken the value of the land. "If land values are absorbed by the state (i.e., National, state county and local government) and if the present drift continues unchecked, land owners will become state tenants."

Agriculture—1924.
Condition of Alabama.

Letters to Editor

BLACK BELT PROBLEMS.

Prattville, Ala., Feb. 19, 1924.

Editor The Advertiser:

This reminds me of the old riddle of the frog in the well jumping up two feet every day and falling back three feet every night. How long would it take him to get out of the well? The old folks would whisper the answer among themselves, but would not let us children know the answer. Perhaps they figured the frog to hell and left him there. But if we figure he went through the earth without getting tired it took about 114,532 years.

Mr. Jack Thorington's idea of erecting industrial plants is the key to the situation. All ideas of a successful community cluster around this idea. If we take a world-wide view of financial conditions we find only industrial centers prosperous. Strictly agricultural countries are in poverty unless their lands are new, fertile, and cheap.

The world is awakening to the truth that economic success can be attained only through the proper balance of agriculture to industry. Neither the farm nor industry can prosper under a heavy handicay of trade and transportation. Argentina is erecting packing houses, so as to sell beef and pork instead of corn. India is erecting cotton mills to manufacture her own cotton instead of shipping her cotton to England and reshipping the cotton goods to India. India is wise to the fact that she pays the freight both ways.

Southeast Alabama is prosperous because the merchants who have made money by traffic have invested the surplus in manufacturing plants in home cities, notably Dothan, Troy and Andalusia. They realize that if a farm family buys $500 from the store a year and if the town erects a plant to give this family employment in town then this family will have over a thousand dollars to spend in that town. The family that remains on the farm will be encouraged to remain and produce more because he sees a market growing for his produce. Without the prospect of erecting an industry in some nearby city one of these farm families probably would have moved to some other industrial city for work, and the other farm family would have moved near some other industrial city so as to have a local market for his produce.

Investing Money At Home.

The Black Belt has got to solve the emigration problem and forget all about the immigration problem. What I mean by emigration is emigration of money. It takes brains, money and labor to make the mare go. And when the money is sent away to foreign fields, brains and labor are certain to follow. When domestic money ceases to emigrate domestic brains and labor will cease to emigrate. When domestic money is willing to invest in home enterprises, foreign money will immigrate to supplement home money and flow in easily as water flows down hill. Brains and labor follow in the wake of invested capital—drawn by the suction. Then hope will be reborn in the farmer's breast, a smile once more brighten his faded cheek and a new light shine in his eye.

Foreign capital is looking for good will wherever it invests. Investors know by experience there can be no good will unless the home folks are interested. Thy know the home folks will not be interested unless they have money invested in the enterprise.

Heat is power. We have the heat. On account of our long moist summers and short winters, our labor needs less clothing, less shelter and less food. Just as our mild winters do not pulverize our soils as in the North, they do not pulverize our roadbeds. Hence upkeep is less. The remedy for the Black Belt problem is clear. This remedy has been tried, tested and proven the world round from time immemorial, viz: Invest home clearings in home enterprises.

W. A. WADSWORTH.

Prattville, Ala.

* * *

BLACK BELT A LIVESTOCK COUNTRY.

Mr. Beeler Says We Must Build Fences and Houses and Diversify.

Editor The Advertiser:

Faith, without which we never achieve even the smallest part of success, but which if overdone, or set running without proper foundation, often ends in disaster to the over zealous. Two years ago last June, I had an article in The Advertiser, setting forth the advisability of Montgomerians having faith in Montgomery and Montgomery county, without which said Montgomery and Montgomery county would sooner or later suffer for the simple reason that even with the spending of $100,000 for advertising to get outside folks here, it would be a hard proposition for even the ablest and most enthusiastic real estate boosters to convince the prospect that all that was claimed for the country was really so. In other words, I advocated that the foundation for a better and more prosperous community was to be had by first selling Montgomery to itself. I have not changed my mind on this score, after having been here three years, actively engaged in livestock and hay farming.

The editorial in The Advertiser commenting upon a letter written by Mr. Jack Thorington, only proves that the time is pressing nearer for such a program. The editorial mentioned is to the point and certainly it strips naked the bare facts about the possible outcome of the Black Belt, unless the business men and bankers have come to the conclusion of broadening their vision, with reference to their plain duty for self preservation.

The Advertiser has year in and year out pushed the slogan to diversify. In most every place in the whole world, extensive diversification is the salvation of the community, but the Black Belt of Alabama is in a class by itself, in this respect, in as much as the grasses growing are so hard to master, together with the fact that the lands have been farmed without proper rebuilding until it has to be reclaimed by rebuilding to such an extent that it is not profitable to grow many crops and spend the money necessary to whip the grasses and other elements for the small yield produced on the land.

In other words, the land must be rebuilt before the profits will justify the attempt to successfully farm the prairie lands of Alabama. The Advertiser sounds a note of warning, and those who do not hearken are like the maidens without the oil.

The Advertiser frankly states it has no solution for the betterment of the condition, and personally I would not bother with putting up one but as secretary of the Alabama Wool and Sheep Growers' Association, and for the fact of fulfilling my duty to the organization of being alive to the interests of the sheep industry, I bring forth a partial solution for the Black Belt.

A Livestock Country.

If diversification is not wholly practical and we have plenty of grass, then if it is not a livestock section it is nothing. If the land needs rebuilding, there is nothing that will rebuild it quicker than a band of sheep. We could not hope to put ten sheep on a thousand acres and have them rebuild it in one season, but stocked to full capacity, the land will in three or four years be made over. Then if one's profits in the sheep are not satisfactory to the farmer, he has his land in shape to go out and conquer the grass and raise anything that will grow in the section and climate. With due cognizance of the fact that we have recently had too unfortunate flockmasters, who have lost on the sheep game to a considerable extent, perhaps a thousand dollars each, it is not the fault of the sheep industry that the two have gotten on the wrong foot.

I personally took the bunch of sheep belonging to one of these parties, and made them make more than 135 per cent of the cost price of them the first six months he owned them. It was not the fault of the sheep that he did not do equally as well the next twelve months. The second instance was due to lack of experience in not having come to the conclusion that the cheapest thing is not always the most profitable thing to buy. Perhaps quality will stick out so strong with him in the future that he will not make the same mistake again. We hope not at any rate.

Livestock and Banks.

With these recent experiences and with the attitude of the money interests taking these two examples as basis of sound reasoning, with regard to loaning money on livestock, it does not make it a fact that the sheep industry is not the salvation of the Black Belt. Now in order to get the man to put his money and time into a redeeming feature that will be of benefit to the land owner of the Black Belt, it will be necessary for the land owned to have a little faith in something besides cotton, and the negro, and improve his place by building fences and decent houses for a white man to live in.

It is the most absurd idea I have ever seen for a landlord to expect to get a renter to go on his place that is worth a tinker's darn that would be so brainless as to move onto a farm that has no decent house in which to live. No barns, fences or other improvements, that would have to put all these improvements on at his own expense and be fool enough to pay rent to the landlord.

Farms Without Fences.

A farm without fences, for no other purpose than to keep his neighbors' stock off his crops, is a decided handicap to the renter. A prospective purchaser will be inclined to pay several dollars per acre more for land that is improved. One great mistake is so prevalent in the Black Belt, and that is the unwillingness of the large land owners to sell portions of a large tract, at a fair price. The attitude seems to be to shift the burden off one pair of shoulders for a two or three years' rest, and then shift it back, for the average outsider who comes in usually gets about three times as much as he can handle and make it pay, then has to turn it back to the former owner. As long as this condition is prevalent the country is going the wrong way. There must be a few successes by some one, and a few farms that are so productive the owner is not hot-footing it about to find a purchaser. In other words, there must be a selling it to oneself, and then make it pay, instead of waiting for Santa Claus to bring in a victim.

In our advertising for newcomers, put a premium on the worker, and take it off the man with a few paltry dollars, that will be with us a year and move on broke. And above all things, cultivate a different attitude towards the man who will work. Many white men in other parts of the United States who have college educations, do not feel the social obligation which we all bear, and which would prevent him from going into the field to work along side of the hired man, who is helping him out.

A business college I attended once had as its slogan, "Learn to do by doing." This applies to anything, and the most pitiable sight I can imagine is the man who has grown up on a farm, yet does not know how to hitch a team, or saddle his own horse, or who is so indolent that he prefers to wait on some negro to do it for him. Merchants, bankers, business men in all branches of business, know how to do about everything pertaining to their line, and do not feel socially skinned up.

The First Step.

Fences and improvements on the Black Belt farms will be the first step toward getting sheep and other livestock land builders on the run down farms, that will eventually bring them back to productivity and prosperity. Personally I am foolish to put up this argument, for left as it is now going only makes the opportunity better for me to buy a top notch farm for $10 per acre a little later on, for already I can buy a farm that would have sold four years ago for two hundred and fifty per cent less than at this time, the present conditions are playing strictly into my hands.

But for the sheep interests, I say to the banker, the business man and all land owners who have a white elephant on hand with no feed, get the idea as The Advertiser has stated, if you do not get to thinking and doing something, you will crumble with the farmer ,and the idea of the banker having the feeling that livestock is not a good risk, because they have lost on some few bets on inexperienced farmers who were not actual, but theoretical farmers, that perhaps would never have made good livestock men.

Pertinent Questions.

I would ask this question: Did a bank ever fail? Did a merchant ever fail? Have the local banks ever lost money betting on a cotton farmer? Has any Alabama farmer ever lost out betting a "negro and a mule?"

The past three years have been, or should have been very educational in the sheep, cattle, dairy and poultry games, all of which should blossom out with real success in the future. If the questions asked above are answered with a yes, which they all will be, then I would say, are all banks failures because some fail? No, it only makes the others stronger. Should merchants all be barred from credit and support because some one in their line failed?

A prosperous section can be made of the Black Belt. It is up to the land owner and the man with money, for they are the ones that will suffer next.

Opposes Immigration.

In regard to Mr. Thorington's statement urging an immigrant station at Mobile for the purpose of getting foreigners to settle here for labor: On the face of it, it sounds good, but from observation of this system and having rubbed up against the actual result of foreign settled sections of the country, I would not approve such a step.

Assuming that we are able to get the very highest type for the settlement of our Alabama farms, these folks have a habit of settling into groups, and they will work for the other fellow awhile, they wish to become owners of the land they till. If the land is productive they will own it, if it is not, they will not settle for long. As for hiring them, they would not work for the small sum that the average Black Belt farmer is able to pay, or is justified in paying,

when compared to the wages they can get in the west and northern sections of the United States. Most of these folks have relatives in this country, and flock to the said relatives. We could colonize them, and get settlements started, but even in this case, they would not go in and build up the land that belongs to someone else. They have a faculty of taking all out of a farm until they own it themselves. Then they rebuilt it. They are a docile set, until they have become master, the worm turns at this stage of the game, and if we had something here that would interest them, once they settled it sufficiently to be of value to the country, they would then determine to run the affairs of the country. Many western bankers and business men rue the day they ever heard of them. The same bankers were catering to the foreign business, in the start, and today it is not hard to take a pencil and map out the settlements in the west that have been strong in the past in bidding for the foreign born, by tracing the bank and business failures prevalent in the west at this time.

Some of the western states are old history in the happenings that have been enforced by this class, or a better class than we can hope to get, when one observes the following of Townley, Victor Berger, LaFollette and others who would make America a Russia.

Many business men have regretted the day that they turned from the real American farmer and took up the cross of the foreign born. The only one that would be benefitted by settling this section with foreigners would be the overloaded land holders, and this only for a few years. Eventually we would have to move on, for they would control the business as well as everything else political and otherwise.

Assuming that it would work out in practice as well as it looks theoretically, the land-lord would have to improve his farms in any event, with buildings and fences, and in that case he could get American white farmers to till his soil. Spend some money in a practical way on improvements, the rest will work out successfully and satisfactorily to all.

A limited few of the foreign born of the lower classes make good Americans, but the small percentage is not an advantage sufficient to justify the risk. The higher class ones who would make good Americans would not go on our farms.

E. A. BEELER.

Secretary Alabama Wool and Sheep Growers' Association, Pike Road, Ala.

FEB 2 1924

Letters to Editor

BLACK BELT PROBLEMS.

Writer Thinks Conditions Fundamentally Sound, But We Need to Work Harder.

Montgomery, Ala., Feb. 22, 1924.

Editor The Advertiser:

The Black Belt of Alabama is all right. Anyway, it is requested that no one dispute it. Recent editorials and letters in your columns have been more or less a kind of "wailin" the Black Belt's decadence. You are all wrong; you and Mr. Thorington and Dr. McCann. The banks and merchants are in no danger. The farmer himself is in no danger; some few—perhaps a good majority, of the actual land owners in the belt are suffering. But no farmer is hurt. The fertility of the soil is still good; it will still produce, without insect ravage, and at low costs (due to improved machinery) corn, oats, alfalfa hay, peavine hay, the clovers and Johnson hay. All these commodities have a market the year round. Every one of them, some in silos, others cut and baled, still others grazed, can actually be marketed through a milk pail.

The immense acreage of lands now lying idle in the Black Belt, are an insult to the God who made them and who when He had finished His work, looked upon it and "it was good." He made the seasons also and they were "good."

Two things today, without the least particle of doubt, hold back the Black Belt farm lands; indolence and false economy. The farmer and dairyman, are bearing down on his outgo; his income cannot increase on this schedule. Why, just to attempt to make this point, a prominent merchant recently, in discussing the dairying industry, was willing to wage the dairies of the county would hardly average a daily marketing of a gallon of milk to the cow. No figures are at hand and one is obliged to feel some doubt on this statement, although enough information with respect to individual dairies is in hand to confirm it. A situation like this, in a community made to order by the Great Creator for a dairy country, is appalling.

Foods and Feedstuff.

Three out of every five tillable acres in the Black Belt could profitably be put to corn, oats and legumes, for home consumption. This condition, with imported registered Jerseys and Guernseys, in herds headed by pedigreed bulls, with a constant breeding up; cow testing associations; community fairs to promote and speed up production of milk, butterfat and producing cows; exhibition of heifer and bull calves from heavy producers, and their subsequent sale and development in the county or district; weekly and monthly meetings of the dairymen to begin with until bearings may be had, at which meetings men from the great milk centers of Wisconsin, Iowa and New York could be brought here to make lectures; to visit individual herds and help our dairymen along; these and a great many other developments might be had within a 24 months if the acreage is prepared and worked as Almighty God intended it should be when He created it. He never has "half done" anything, and He did not half create the Black Belt, or even leave it in the hands of a weakling. Who wants to believe that He did? Or admitted man, created in his Maker's own image, fails in his mission with the tools in hand that his Maker handed him?

Who in Montgomery will agree with this writer that your farm section and its preachments of six and seven years ago from the pen of Littell McClung, if continued to this good date, and under McClung's leadership, might not have already solved the question of the Black Belt? Anyway, more than this writer today, entertains the profoundest respect for your paper's activities during the time mentioned and certain developments it surely will lead to.

Co-Operative Effort.

Team work, co-operation of the unselfish type; a loosening up of private purse strings to the benefit of the entire community; these are needed here. When the Farm Bureau came into existence (and even now) certain agencies decried its birth; decried and attempted estoppel on its growth. Short-sighted is that business man or professional man who fails to see its benefits; fails to realize that if, through its agency, the farmer may secure savings in the purchase of his supplies by pool; may on the roundabout secure greater savings in his overhead and consequent increases in his income by pool; shortsighted we reiterate is he who cannot from these causes visualize a greatly increased spending power and volume of exchange.

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COMMERCE STREET MAN.

* * *

ON GIVING WORK A TRIAL IN THE BLACK BELT.

Montgomery, Ala., Feb. 21, 1924.

Editor The Advertiser:

There seems to be something wrong with farms and farming here in the Black Belt as well as other parts of Alabama.

At least one would be led to so believe on reading the excellent editorials in your paper and the numerous letters from friends which likewise appear with frequency in your columns.

Th writer has read all these editorials and letters with a great deal of interest. In addition, it has been my privilege to have listened to countless conversations along the same lines, viz: what is wrong and how to cure.

One man says that permanent pastures will be the salvation of the light soil sections and alfalfa and clovers the cure for black lands.

Another says that humus is all that is needed in the soil to make this a second Garden of Eden.

Still a third suggests a rotation of crops with velvet beans as the soil builder.

A fourth suggests tile drainage as the open sesame to prosperity.

Others tell us live stock and diversified farming.

And these are only a few of many.

Best of all, each and every one of these cures is a god one. Each will work, possibly some for quicker results than others.

However, there is one fundamental I believe has been overlookd and without which none of these cures will relieve the patient.

The medicine which seems to me of the first importance is WORK, spelled with capital letters.

This doesn't mean work on the part of the other fellow. It means work on the part of the farmer himself—the doffing of the white collar and the donning of the blue overall—the putting up of the automobile and the taking out of the plow, the corn cultivator or what not.

In my business I meet many farmers. It has been a very common practice for me to ask them why they were not milking a few cows, or feeding a few pigs or hens. The answers come back many time. "The help is all gone." "Can't get any help any more."

One farmer complained of not making any money from his farm. He had a fine piece of land and some fifty good cows. On questioning, I found that he had not seen a cow milked twice in two years.

Another was taking home a sack of potatoes for use on his table, bought in a store in Montgomery and probably shipped in from Georgia or Florida, or perhaps New Jersey. In answer to an inquiry, he stated that they hadn't gotten around to putting in enough potatoes at home last year. Yet I always see this man in town an average of one or possibly more days a week.

The reason I write this is because this is the most potential food section to be found anywhere. The land is here—none better—the sun is here almost the year around—the rains are plentiful, but the element lacking is Work, and it's here, too, if we'll use it.

I thought possibly you could build up some of your well written editorials on this subject—this vital cure for any ailing community.—MERCHANT.

(Editor's note: The foregoing letter was not intended for publication, but its text could not be improved by any comment of ours.)

Agriculture—1924.
Condition of.

D.C.

Carolinian After Expert Alien Farmers for South

WASHINGTON, March 11.—Hugh MacRae, of Wilmington, intensely interested in securing the best class of agricultural immigrants for the South, and especially for North Carolina, in appearing here last Saturday before the Senate Committee on Immigration, made statements that impressed the committee as to the value of selective immigration for this country.

What Mr. MacRae had to say will be of keen interest to all farming interests in North Carolina in connection with the question of immigration. Mr. MacRae holds that with the negroes leaving the State and the South for sections of the North, that the best thing possible is to secure practical, expert, intensive farmers from northern Europe, and holds that conditions now are such as to make it easy to secure such immigrant families. He has visited the sections of Europe of which he speaks, and has tried out his views at points near to Wilmington hence he knows what he is talking about.

In talking of the value of these expert intensive farmers, Mr. MacRae told this correspondent that on a tract of some 70 acres in the vicinity of Fort Caswell, which before had not produced more than $1,000 yearly, the division of the tract into 20-acre farms, and having on them intensive farming operations had produced $500,000. He holds that this can be done in other parts of the State, and that cut-over lands can be made wealth producers with the right kind of methods used. He calls attention to the fact that the Bankers' Association has pointed out that many if not all, of the basic industries of the United States are today dependent for success on labor supply of foreign origin, employing from 60 per cent to 85 per cent of labor which has migrated to this country. Here is what he had to say to the Senate Committee:

MacRae's Statement.

"I appreciate the privilege of being permitted to place before you certain facts which I trust you will feel should have an important bearing in the final shaping of the pending immigration bill.

"While this is a measure of international importance, and will naturally be considered in its broad relations, the particular interest centers on its effect on the United States.

"As my experience and observation have been largely confined to the South, it is my purpose to refer to that locality, not to be sectional, but rather to limit myself to subjects on which I have first-hand information. You will hold, I feel confident, the view that what is for the great good of one part of the country is also for the benefit of the whole.

"In order to be brief, I shall take the liberty of making certain positive statements. Should any of these, in the mind of any member of the committee, be open to question, I shall be glad to submit proof. The immigration bill offers a rare opportunity for constructive statesmanship. Perhaps not within a half century has there been an occasion where so much direct benefit could be conferred on the whole country, certainly on part of it, by embodying good judgment into law.

"For the purpose of the record, I submit to your consideration government rainfall and growing season charts, and a typical map made by the United States Soil Survey, from which data it will be evident to you that the South has agricultural possibilities as one of the most favored parts of the United States, and, when the nearness to great markets is considered, it is one of the most favored parts of the world.

"In 1880 the value of the agricultural products of the entire country was $2,212,000,000. In contrast to this, the value of the South's agricultural products in 1922 was $5,291,000,000. At the present time, however, the South is not producing one-third of the value that it might product. There are three important reasons for this: (1) Great areas of productive land are not being utilized; (2) the practically unlimited opportunity for diversified production and intensive farming is not availed of; (3) the labor supply of the South has not been responsive to scientific advancement in agriculture.

"The South's buying power due to its agricultural production, is one of the chief assets of the nation and should be conserved and stimulated for the general good. The South is still reaping the incalculable cost of slavery. As the chains of the slaves were broken by Lincoln, the chains of the South, fifty years later, can be broken by the Senate and Congress, through constructive statesmanship.

'Restricted immigration is causing the industries of the North and West—the great centers of wealth and population—to call for negroes by hundreds of thousands. This has the effect of depleting the basic labor supply of the South, causing the abandonment of thousands of farms and resulting in loss from operation of thousands of others.

The South's greatest need of the present and for the near future is a supply of intelligent, high-class, intensive farmers, people like the Swedes, Danes and Hollanders who have proven and always will prove good citizens; toward whom none of the arguments against immigration hold. As evidence of the needs of the South, I submit a few typical letters to be made a part of the record.

"These intensive farmers from northern Europe will succeed in the South, because they have been tried over a period of twenty years and have made a wonderful record. Herewith is presented a report on the Castle Haynes Colony, in North Carolina, where an area which was producing not more than $1,000 per year produced last year, under intensive cultivation methods more than $500,000.

"These desirable people want to come to the South, not as laborers but as families of independent farm-owners. As evidence of this I submit for record letters from Central Emigration Foundation of Holland, and from the Director of Emigration of the Netherlands.

"For the first time in the history of this country we can get any desired number of these splendid people. They will come to accredited locations with the approval of, and selected by, their government officials. This is possible only because of the after effects of the great war and the collapse of the German markets, which absorbed a great proportion of the products of Holland, Denmark and other countries of northern Europe.

"It has been said by a Secretary of Agriculture that he could, with a hundred selected families of this kind, revolutionize the agriculture of the South. With their knowledge and skill, and through their example, this could easily be done with a few thousand families. By using them to replace the gaps in the economic structure caused by the migration of negroes, only the greatest benefits would result.

"It would be conservative to estimate that at least $1,000,000,000 could be added annually to the nation's economic wealth by making proper use of the present remarkable situation where there is almost unlimited opportunity offered to intensive farmers and an ample supply of the best farmers in the world desirous of accepting the opportunity.

"Where there are no disadvantages as an off-set, the reward would appear to be ample to justify favorable legislation.

"In a carefully prepared report made by the American Bankers' Association it is recommended that agricultural labor and families wishing to settle on the land be admitted beyond the quota, and, further, that appropriate governmental agricultural services be put at the disposal of the immigrant to direct him to the land. The House bill, in its present form, will preclude skilled farmers and experienced farm labor from becoming any appreciable proportion of the immigrants to this country. Herewith is submitted extracts from a letter written by the Commissioner of Emigration of the Netherlands showing that the requirements that the quota be divided into monthly allotments would eliminate farmers, who could only come in certain seasons, and then they would find the quota filled by crowding to the front of undesirables.

"If a selective immigration law is substituted for the present purely restrictive law, and the movement of skilled farmers available directed to accredited localities, the effect would soon be felt over wide areas, because each progressive city or community would ask for and take proper care of groups of intensive farmers.

"Selective immigration makes it possible for the United States to get the citizens it wants rather than those whom other countries wish to send. It would supply skilled agriculturists and experienced laborers trained in intensive and diversified farming who are required to meet definite demands in certain localities. It would make it possible to select nationalities which have shown an aptitude to become American citizens. It would give an opportunity to avoid arbitrary discrimination against those nations of northern Europe which have always been regarded as the sources from which the best class of immigrants came to the United States.

"I believe I am representing the wishes of the Southern States in urging that you frame a selective immigration bill, which will permit skilled farmers and experienced farm laborers to come into this country in order to meet the present great need for diversification in agriculture."—Washington correspondence, Raleigh News and Observer.

Agriculture—1924.

Alabama.

Condition of.

REGAINING THE PROSPERITY OF THE BLACK BELT

The city of Eufaula, through the agency of a united and determined citizenship has undertaken the solution of a problem which vitally effects every community, large or small in the Alabama Black Belt. That citizenship in among its other efforts will strive to blaze the way in restoring the productivity of the Black Belt lands of Alabama.

Thoughtful men in every section of the Black Belt have thought with alarm and concern over the effects of decreased productivity of the Black Belt lands and its inevitable results. A special writer in The Advertiser twenty years ago in commenting on the cause of this concern wrote in the columns of The Advertiser: "The lands lying between the city of Montgomery and the Chattahoochee river are the cheapest rich lands in the world. In no quarter of the globe can lands lying adjacent to communities which are good trade centers and which have the benefits of schools, churches and good roads, be bought so cheaply as the land in East Alabama." He could have truly included West Alabama. This was long before the coming of the boll weevil. The boll weevil and the negro exodus were but finishing blows to the prosperity of these Black Belt lands. Other causes, even the negro exodus, were effective before the boll weevil appared and rvolutionized where it did not destroy the industry of producing cotton.

Montgomery Advertiser

2-13-24

It is useless but it may be interesting, to turn the leaves of the book of the past. Since the peace terms agreed upon at the close of the great war, a few Southern men have compared them with the terms which the South was forced to agree to accept at the close of the war. There was then no talk of stabilizing the currency conditions of the South, no proposals of helping the South get back on its feet. No outstanding philanthropist proposed funds for financing the agriculture of, or any other interest "in the States lately in rebellion."

The single agency then established and maintained for several years was the mistaken idea of Freedmen's Bureau, established to give direct monetary aid to the negro. This was a mistaken kindness, which afterwards proved to be disastrous to the South. For if there ever was a necessity for earnest and intelligent work that necessity faced the negro of the South. It would have been far better for him and his race if he had fallen to with hearty good will to his work on the farms and plantations, rather than to live in idleness and mischief and to divert himself with delusive talk of "forty acres and a mule." The members of his generation do not have a memory of this time in which the true misfortunes began in the South. The war itself had been disastrous to the Southern States and their institutions. The victorious North carried out its determination to destroy "the peculiar institution of the South," but they went ever farther. They actually established for awhile that which had never before been witnessed in the world, the domination and rule of Anglo-Saxons by an inferior race. This could not endure for any length of time. If the Southern white man had not succeeded in throwing off this submission contrary to all the instincts of the white race, he would have chosen the extinction of the white race. And that was the only way to the solution of the problem of Reconstruction than the one which was worked out.

But why this excursion into ancient history, may be asked by the reader of 1924? Because in this period the foundations for the troubles of the future were laid, even those of the present. The dragon's teeth were sown then. This generation of 1924 is only reaping its part of the stormy harvest. The negro sold his birthright for a mess of political pottage, a transitory lease of political power. The two races were driven apart and the hatreds and friction between them, of the last fifty years, was the direct results. Much of the hatred and bitterness of this time has resulted from this apparently ineradicle division of two races which should have been living in accord and harmony and engaged in working out the difficulties and problems which were common to both. If the negro had gone to work, willingly and cheerfully, at his portion of the task of restoring the stricken agriculture in the South, we would have had a different story to tell of agriculture in the South.

These active and often bloody controversies were followed by unfavorable and unhappy developments. The advancing business grew up a most unfavorable development. No permanent prosperity can be built up in an agricultural community on the advancing business. The advancing business, once highly esteemed and in which many fortunes were made, is a parasite that sucks the life blood of agriculture. The white man made the mistakes of thinking he could move his family and live in the nearest town, while he turned his productive farm or plantation over to tenants, often without energy of industry. He has continued to make this same mistake. In the Alabama Black Belt, it would be safe to say that 90 per cent, if not larger, is cultivated and directed by tenants who are not in the least interested in the welfare of the land. When this system began to come in the annual productivity of the land began to decrease and it has continued through the years to decrease.

There was, too, a considerable shifting of population in this period, which was a time of unrest and discontent. Thousands of good Alabama farmers moved completely away. Many of them went to Texas and many from the Black Belt to growing sections of the State, occupied by white farmers, sections which are still productive and prosperous.

The negro exodus is nothing new. It began as early as fifty years ago, when farm laborer found that he could easily find work for himself in what are commonly termed "public works", or in the industrial sections of the State. They moved slower than they did during the great exodus that was recorded as one of the results of the war, but it moved slowly over a term of years.

Then came the crowning disaster—the coming of the boll weevil. During this time to which we have alluded, the one crop system was firmly established. As the wheat farmers of the West have learned, any one crop system of farming is disastrous. But no section with a one crop system ever suffered as severely as did the South, with its one crop of cotton, when it was assailed by the boll weevil. The last and largest exodus of the negro synchronized with the victory of the boll weevil. The negro no longer raised cotton. Even the advancing merchant refused to extend the credit necessary to keep him and his family going. In self defense he had to accept the higher wages offered him by the Northern industries. The depopulation of the Black Belt of the farming portion of the Alabama Black Belt was very nearly completed.

There are sixteen counties in the Alabama Black Belt, stretching from the Chattahoochee to the Mississippi line. Each census in the past twenty years has shown that these counties, with the possible exception of Montgomery and Dallas, have lost in population. The small growth in these two counties in population is represented in the growth of the cities of Montgomery and Selma, which offset a heavy decrease in population in the farming sections of the county.

It can not but be considered significant that these two cities, each in its own way and by differing methods, first among the Black Belt, waked to the grave material danger that there was in the vast stretches of depopulated farm lands and by united and intelligent action, strove with some success to avert this danger and restore the farms to productivity.

Eufaula is first among the smaller cities to seek and find a way for restoring the abandoned farm lands. Every other considerable Black Belt will study the methods of the united and aroused citizens of Eufaula. For they are grappling with a problem that is by no means local. And the magnitude of the task is recognized by the citizens of Eufaula. They have succeeded in uniting all the forces and most of the citizens of the community in the effort to face, study out and solve the difficulties.

The preliminary effort naturally enough takes the form of a Chamber of Commerce for by such an agency only can the citizens unite their thought and effort. The intention of the energetic organizers of the Chamber of Commerce is to make it a sort of super civic organization and to endow it with a budget that is surprisingly large under the circumstances. These workers in their canvass for supporters and helpers found a fine spirit of enthusiasm and a great support, a spirit which was made manifest at a great public meeting attended by all classes and conditions of citizens, who gave pledges of their support.

We, of the Black Belt of Alabama, realize that our material troubles have culminated on us. The time has come when we must solve these long standing difficulties or see our cotton and corn fields relapse into fields for second growth pine or broom sedge. So a large and interested part of Alabama's citizenship watches with interest and wishes God speed to the intelligent effort of Eufaula to point the way to many Black Belt communities which are suffering from her identical ills.

Letters to Editor

BLACK BELT PROBLEMS.

Writer Thinks Conditions Fundamentally Sound, But We Need to Work Harder.

Montgomery, Ala., Feb. 22, 1924.

Editor The Advertiser:

The Black Belt of Alabama is all right. Anyway, it is requested that no one dispute it. Recent editorials and letters in your columns have been more or less a kind of "wailin" the Black Belt's decadence. You are all wrong; you and Mr. Thorington and Dr. McCann. The banks and merchants are in no danger. The farmer himself is in no danger. Some few—perhaps a good majority, of the actual land owners in the belt are suffering. But no farmer is hurt. The fertility of the soil is still good; it will still produce, without insect ravage, and at low costs (due to improved machinery) corn, oats, alfalfa hay, Coastal Bermuda hay, the clovers and Johnson hay. All these commodities have a market the year round. Every one of them, some in silos, others cut and baled, still others grazed, can actually be marketed through a milk pail.

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COMMERCE STREET MAN.

Letters to Editor

BLACK BELT PROBLEMS.

Prattville, Ala., Feb. 19, 1924.

Editor The Advertiser:

This reminds me of the old riddle of the frog in the well jumping up two feet every day and falling back three feet every night. How long would it take him to get out of the well? The old folks would whisper the answer among themselves, but would not let us children know the answer. Perhaps they figured the frog to hell and left him there. But if we figure he went through the earth without getting tired it took about 114,532 years.

Mr. Jack Thorington's idea of erecting industrial plants is the key to the situation. All ideas of a successful community cluster around this idea. If we take a world-wide view of financial conditions we find only industrial centers prosperous. Strictly agricultural countries are in poverty unless their lands are new, fertile, and cheap.

The world is awakening to the truth that economic success can be attained only through the proper balance of agriculture to industry. Neither the farm nor industry can prosper under a heavy handicay of trade and transportation. Argentina is erecting packing houses, so as to sell beef and pork instead of corn. India is erecting cotton mills to manufacture her own cotton instead of shipping her cotton to England and reshipping the cotton goods to India. India is wise to the fact that she pays the freight both ways.

Southeast Alabama is prosperous because the merchants who have made money by traffic have invested the surplus in manufacturing plants in home cities, notably Dothan, Troy and Andalusia. They realize that if a farm family buys $500 from the store a year and if the town erects a plant to give this family employment in town then this family will have over a thousand dollars to spend in that town. The family that remains on the farm will be encouraged to remain and produce more because he sees a market growing for his produce. Without the prospect of erecting an industry in some nearby city one of these farm families probably would have moved to some other industrial city for work, and the other farm family would have moved near some other industrial city so as to have a local market for his produce.

Investing Money At Home.

The Black Belt has got to solve the emigration problem and forget all about the immigration problem. What I mean by emigration is emigration of money. It takes brains, money and labor to make the mare go. And when the money is sent away to foreign fields, brains and labor are certain to follow. When domestic money ceases to emigrate domestic brains and labor will cease to emigrate. When domestic money is willing to invest in home enterprises, foreign money will immigrate to supplement home money and flow in easily as water flows down hill. Brains and labor follow in the wake of invested capital—drawn by the suction. Then hope will be reborn in the farmer's breast, a smile once more brighten his faded cheek and a new light shine in his eye.

Foreign capital is looking for good will wherever it invests. Investors know by experience there can be no good will unless the home folks are interested. Thy know the home folks will not be interested unless they have money invested in the enterprise.

Heat is power. We have the heat. On account of our long moist summers and short winters, our labor needs less clothing, less shelter and less food. Just as our mild winters do not pulverize our soils as in the North, they do not pulverize our roadbeds. Hence upkeep is less. The remedy for the Black Belt problem is clear. This remedy has been tried, tested and proven the world round from time immemorial, viz: Invest home clearings in home enterprises.

W. A. WADSWORTH.

Prattville, Ala.

Agriculture—1924.
Condition of.
Alabama.

MANUAL LABOR IN THE BLACK BELT

More than one correspondent of The Advertiser recently commented upon the well known aversion of the Black Belt man to labor with his hands. All of the correspondents, and the others who from time to time had spoken before them, agree that future Black Belt progress, especially in agriculture, can be accelerated if Black Belt farmers will but bring themselves to stop using the negro as an umbrella and go to work.

Montgomery Advertiser

It is even suggested to The Advertiser that it harp on this question from time to time and do what it can to convert the old-timers to the idea that a little work with their hands not only will be good for them, but that it is now a necessity to every agriculturist who would make the most of his opportunities.

Easier said than done. East is East, and it will not be hustled, as the World's Almanac, or some other classic said. Established traditions are not to be dis-established by the stroke of a pen or the passing of a good resolution on January 1. But we are glad to turn to this subject, if for no better reason than to explain the cause of the custom and the condition—for, as we understand it, we face a condition, not a theory, about the working habits of people.

2-28-24

There are two reasons why the Black Belt planter doesn't plow, hoe and harvest with his own hands. The first, and probably the chief, reason is in the size of the and tracts he owns and cultivates. The plantation system is characteristic of the Black Belt. Now the owner of a plantation cannot work the land. He must stock it with tenants. His post is leader and manager. He is an executive. He can—or at one time, he could—make more money by directing tenants and hands, than by cultivating a few acres himself.

The second is that these lands but a few decades ago were tilled by slaves. Plowing and hoeing and harvesting were jobs that slaves were destined to do. The white man who worked side by side with them was ashamed, and his neighbors might—and probably they did—deride him.

In the "white counties" of the State, notably in the Wiregrass farms were small, negroes very few, even in slavery times, and owners of the land had to work the farms themselves, or see them lie fallow. In consequence, it came to be the fashion for white men to work in the fields. Everybody did it. Everybody still does it and there is no derision of the white field hand by his neighbors.

In the West landlords and their families have always worked in the fields, however high their social standing. They had to work in the fields or take the certain economic consequences, because there were not enough tenants to do the work for them.

Today the most prosperous class of farmers are found in those parts of Alabama, and of the country, where white men have done their share of manual labor in the fields. Their lands have been better cultivated and they have operated at relatively lower over-head costs.

The Wiregrass and other white sections of Alabama were better prepared for weevils and the exodus than their neighbors in the Black Belt. They were long accustomed to growing hog and hominy at home, and they were long fairly independent of tenant farmers—not entirely, but much more nearly than the Black Belt people.

Undoubtedly the time has come when the man who has been accustomed to plantation traditions will be compelled to alter his point of view, or suffer. He will have to go into the fields and work with his hands. He will have to operate smaller tracts, and operate them better than before. He will not suffer socially, because economic necessity is the parent of much of our social traditions. Once he accustoms himself to the changed condition of his life he will be contented.

The Black Belt planter's white hand are not white because he is physically lazy. He is white-handed because up to 1915 it wasn't necessary for him to do his own plowing, and it wouldn't have been profitable to him to do his own plowing—at least, he was so convinced. Now conditions are changed. The weevil will not leave; the laborer will not return, but agriculture must go on.

THE ALTAHAMA DELTA AND THE BLACK BELT OF ALABAMA.

We call the attention of Black Belt people to an extraordinary land development scheme that is to be undertaken in the Delta of the Altahama river in Georgia. New York financial interests, through the aid of the Georgia Association and the A. B. and A. Railroad Company, have concluded a deal with the owners of some 9,000 acres of this remarkably rich land whereby the land will be reclaimed by the promoters, and truck farmers settled on it.

2-19-24

Montgomery Advertiser

Some of the novel features of the scheme are: The company will reclaim the land and put it in cultivatable condition before anyone will be permitted to settle on it; no land will be sold to the new settlers during the first year of their occupation of it, but the farmers will work on a share-and-share-alike plan and after one year they may buy; houses will be built on the plans made by the company's architects and only small tracts will be sold to settlers, an average of 20 acres to the family. The land will be sold on the best terms possible, but the promoters cannot say yet at what prices the land will be offered, as they cannot foretell the cost of reclamation. The promoters are working slowly and comprehensively on their great constructive scheme.

The Atlanta Georgian of Monday carries a full account of the plan. A staff correspondent, writing from Brunswick, states that these people have inaugurated "what is undoubtedly and by far the greatest and most comprehensive reclamation and development project of the kind ever undertaken in Georgia or in the Southeast, if not in the entire South." The promoters have formulated broad plans for the "ultimate restoration to the high state of productivity that characterized it when it was the seat of a civilization and an aristocracy that is one of the immortal traditions of the ante-bellum South."

2-19-24

The Georgia Association, of which Mr. F. H. Abbott, of Atlanta, is the Secretary, seems to have been the originator of the idea, an idea which was recently warmly endorsed by the Country Gentleman. This article attracted the attention of the man who has organized the company to take over the abandoned lands, now grown up in woods and trees, but enriched by centuries of generous effort by the river.

The company will have some of the land ready for occupancy by fall. At that time it will accept tenants who must work the land a year on a 50-50 basis, with the option to buy at the end of a year. This will enable the settler to determine whether he likes his situation, and the company to determine whether he will make a desirable settler and farmer. "We shall insist upon this," says Mr. Lamb, head of the company, who goes on to say:

> The prospective purchaser must demonstrate the fact he is a competent truck farmer; second, we shall refuse to take any man's money until we know, by his actions and his statement in writing, that he is thoroughly satisfied with what we offer him. Not an acre of this land will be sold for speculation, but only to bona fide home seekers—men who want it for permanent homes. And before we shall enter into negotiations with any prospective settler we first must be convinced that he is experienced in intensive truck farming, that he has energy, determination, ambition, willing to work with his own hands, has a clean moral character and a good reputation among those who know him. In no instance will we require or accept a down payment for any land we sell. We shall prefer that the prospective purchaser have a small amount of capital, but we shall want him to keep it in bank to draw upon to sustain himself and family in comfort and a state of mental contentment while producing his first crop and demonstrating to his and our complete satisfaction that he is getting what he wants in the way of a permanent home. After the first crop is made and marketed, and the proceeds divided equally between us and the grower, and if both parties are satisfied, we shall sell the land at a price agreed upon in the first instance, the purchaser, if he chooses, having up to 15 or 20 years in which to complete payment for it, deferred payments bearing, of course, a moderate rate of interest, as agreed upon before the purchaser shall have entered upon the land as a one-year tenant. Care will be taken not to sell any man more land than he and his family are capable of properly and successfully cultivating.

Mr. Lamb's organization plans also to maintain general charge over the marketing of the produce of the farmers on a strictly co-operative basis, "safeguarding them against the detrimental effects of speculation by individual or combined private marketing concerns, and to insure them the highest obtainable prices for the commodities they grow."

Also while the bulk of the products probably will be marketed directly, it is expected that a cannery will be established by the company to take care of what portion which cannot as profitably be disposed of in a raw and perishable state.

The promoters say they believe the wonderful alluvial lands which they are to reclaim and settle should produce $5,000,000 worth of stuff a year.

Georgia is to be congratulated upon its good fortune, and sections of other Southern States will be interested in the ambitious experiment, for they, too, have problems which call for heroic solution somewhat after the manner in which the New Yorkers hope to solve a Georgia problem—and at the same time profit themselves legitimately and adequately.

But the thought will naturally occur to informed residents of the Black Belt, that the New Yorkers are spending money unnecessarily for reclamation when they could obtain lands in Alabama as rich as the Altahama Delta, that would require

no reclamation. They are ready to be plowed this week. They need houses on them, and they need artesian wells, as do the Delta lands in Georgia; but the prairie lands of the Black Belt are in condition for immediate use. They are extremely fertile lands, that lie fallow now because of the boll weevil. The weevil has put a premium on high, dry, cotton lands, and made cotton cultivation in the rich prairies unprofitable.

It is estimated that it will cost the promoters of the Georgia scheme a million dollars to reclaim the Altahama Delta. It would require but a fraction of this outlay to achieve exactly the same results in the Black Belt of Alabama.

The Black Belt feels the need of constructive ideas looking to its restoration. Let it consider the Georgia scheme, among others.

BLACK BELT A LIVESTOCK COUNTRY.

Mr. Beeler Says We Must Build Fences and Houses and Diversify.

Editor The Advertiser:

Faith, without which we never achieve even the smallest part of success, but which if overdone, or set running without proper foundation, often ends in disaster to the over zealous. Two years ago last June, I had an article in The Advertiser, setting forth the advisability of Montgomerians having faith in Montgomery and Montgomery county, without which said Montgomery and Montgomery county would sooner or later suffer for the simple reason that even with the spending of $100,000 for advertising to get outside folks here, it would be a hard proposition for even the ablest and most enthusiastic real estate boosters to convince the prospect that all that was claimed for the country was really so. In other words, I advocated that the foundation for a better and more prosperous community was to be had by first selling Montgomery to itself. I have not changed my mind on this score, after having been here three years actively engaged in livestock and hay farming.

The editorial in The Advertiser commenting upon a letter written by Mr. Jack Thorington, only proves that the time is pressing nearer for such a program. The editorial mentioned is to the point and certainly it strips naked the bare facts about the possible outcome of the Black Belt, unless the business men and bankers have come to the conclusion of broadening their vision, with reference to their plain duty for self preservation.

The Advertiser has year in and year out pushed the slogan to diversify. In most every place in the whole world, extensive diversification is the salvation of the community, but the Black Belt of Alabama is in a class by itself, in this respect, in as much as the grasses growing are so hard to master, together with the fact that the lands have been farmed without proper rebuilding until it has to be reclaimed by rebuilding to such an extent that it is not profitable to grow many crops and spend the money necessary to whip the grasses and other elements for the small yield produced on the land.

In other words, the land must be rebuilt before the profits will justify the attempt to successfully farm the prairie lands of Alabama. The Advertiser sounds a note of warning, and those who do not hearken are like the maidens without the oil.

The Advertiser frankly states it has no solution for the betterment of the condition, and personally I would not bother with putting up one but as secretary of the Alabama Wool and Sheep Growers' Association, and for the fact of fulfilling my duty to the organization of being alive to the interests of the sheep industry, I bring forth a partial solution for the Black Belt.

A Livestock Country.

If diversification is not wholly practical and we have plenty of grass, then if it is not a livestock section it is nothing. If the land needs rebuilding, there is nothing that will rebuild it quicker than a band of sheep. We could not hope to put ten sheep on a thousand acres and have them rebuild it in one season, but stocked to full capacity, the land will in three or four years be made over, then if one's profits in the sheep are not satisfactory to the farmer, he has his land in shape to go out and conquer the grass and raise anything that will grow in the section and climate. With due cognizance of the fact that we have recently had too unfortunate flockmasters, who have lost on the sheep game to a considerable extent, perhaps a thousand dollars each, it is not the fault of the sheep industry that the two have gotten on the wrong foot.

I personally took the bunch of sheep belonging to one of these parties, and made them make more than 135 per cent of the cost price of them the first six months he owned them. It was not the fault of the sheep that he did not do equally as well the next twelve months. The second instance was due to lack of experience in not having come to the conclusion that the cheapest thing is not always the most profitable thing to buy. Perhaps quality will stick out so strong with him in the future that he will not make the same mistake again. We hope not at any rate.

Livestock and Banks.

With these recent experiences and with the attitude of the money interests taking these two examples as basis of sound reasoning, with regard to loaning money on livestock, it does not make it a fact that the sheep industry is not the salvation of the Black Belt. Now in order to get the man to put his money and time into a redeeming feature that will be of benefit to the land owner of the Black Belt. it will ba necessary for the land owned to have a little faith in something besides cotton, and the negro, and improve his place by building fences and decent houses for a white man to live in.

It is the most absurd idea I have ever seen for a landlord to expect to get a renter to go on his place that is worth a tinker's darn that would be so brainless as to move onto a farm that has no decent house in which to live. No barns, fences or other improvements, that would have to put all these improvements on at his own expense and be fool enough to pay rent to the landlord.

Farms Without Fences.

A farm without fences, for no other purpose than to keep his neighbors' stock off his crops, is a decided handicap to the renter. A prospective purchaser will be inclined to pay several dollars per acre more for land that is improved. One great mistake is so prevalent in the Black Belt, and that is the unwillingness of the large land owners to sell portions of a large tract, at a fair price. The attitude seems to be to shift the burden off one pair of shoulders for a two or three years' rest, and then shift it back, for the average outsider who comes in usually gets about three times as much as he can handle and make it pay, then has to turn it back to the former owner. As long as this condition is prevalent the country is going the wrong way. There must be a few successes by some one, and a few farms that are so productive the owner is not hot-footing it about to find a purchaser. In other words, there must be a selling it to oneself, and then make it pay, instead of waiting for Santa Claus to bring in a victim.

In our advertising for newcomers, put a premium on the worker, and take it off the man with a few paltry dollars, that will be with us a year and move on broke. And above all things, cultivate a different attitude towards the man who will work. Many white men in other parts of the United States who have college educations, do not feel the social obligation which we all bear, and which would prevent him from going into the field to work along side of the hired man, who is helping him out.

A business college I attended once had as its slogan, "Learn to do by doing." This applies to anything, and the most pitiable sight I can imagine is the man who has grown up on a farm, yet does not know how to hitch a team, or saddle his own horse, or who is so indolent that he prefers to wait on some negro to do it for him. Merchants, bankers, business men in all branches of business, know how to do about everything pertaining to their line, and do not feel socially skinned up.

The First Step.

Fences and improvements on the Black Belt farms will be the first step toward getting sheep and other livestock land builders on the run down farms, that will eventually bring them back to productivity and prosperity. Personally I am foolish to put up this argument, for left as it is now going only makes the opportunity better for me to buy a top notch farm for $10 per acre a little later on, for already I can buy a farm that would have sold four years ago for two hundred and fifty per cent less than at this time, the present conditions are playing strictly into my hands.

But for the sheep interests, I say to the banker, the business man and all land owners who have a white elephant on hand with no feed, get the idea as The Advertiser has stated, if you do not get to thinking and doing something, you will crumble with the farmer ,and the idea of the banker having the feeling that livestock is not a good risk, because they have lost on some few bets on inexperienced farmers who were not actual, but theoretical farmers, that perhaps would never have made good livestock men.

Pertinent Questions.

I would ask this question: Did a bank ever fail? Did a merchant ever fail? Have the local banks ever lost money betting on a cotton farmer? Has any Alabama farmer ever lost out betting a "negro and a mule?"

The past three years have been, or should have been very educational in the sheep, cattle, dairy and poultry games, all of which should blossom out with real success in the future. If the questions asked above are answered with a yes, which they all will be, then I would say, are all banks failures because some fail? No, it only makes the others stronger. Should merchants all be barred from credit and support because some one in their line failed?

A prosperous section can be made of the Black Belt. It is up to the land owner and the man with money, for they are the ones that will suffer next.

Opposes Immigration.

In regard to Mr. Thorington's statement urging an immigrant station at Mobile for the purpose of getting foreigners to settle here for labor: On the face of it, it sounds good, but from observation of this system and having rubbed up against the actual result of foreign settled sections of the country, I would not approve such a step.

Assuming that we are able to get the very highest type for the settlement of our Alabama farms, these folks have a habit of settling into groups, and they will work for the other fellow awhile, they wish to become owners of the land they till. If the land is productive they will own it, if it is not, they will not settle for long. As for hiring them, they would not work for the small sum that the average Black Belt farmer is able to pay, or is justified in paying, when compared to the wages they can get in the west and northern sections of the United States. Most of these folks have relatives in this country, and flock to the said relatives. We could colonize them, and get settlements started, but even in this case, they would not go in and build up the land that belongs to someone else. They have a faculty of taking all out of a farm until they own it themselves. Then they rebuilt it. They are a docile set, until they have become master, the worm turns at this stage of the game, and if we had something here that would interest them, once they settled it sufficiently to be of value to the country, they would then determine to run the affairs of the country. Many western bankers and business men rue the day they ever heard of them. The same bankers were catering to the foreign business, in the start, and today it is not hard to take a pencil and map out the settlements in the west that have been strong in the past in bidding for the foreign born, by tracing the bank and business failures prevalent in the west at this time.

Some of the western states are old history in the happenings that have been enforced by this class, or a better class than we can hope to get, when one observes the following of Townley, Victor Berger, LaFollette and others who would make America a Russia.

Many business men have regretted the day that they turned from the real American farmer and took up the cross of the foreign born. The only one that would be benefitted by settling this section with foreigners would be the overloaded land holders, and this only for a few years. Eventually we would have to move on, for they would control the business as well as everything else political and otherwise.

Assuming that it would work out in practice as well as it looks theoretically, the land-lord would have to improve his farms in any event, with buildings and fences, and in that case he could get American white farmers to till his soil. Spend some money in a practical way on improvements, the rest will work out successfully and satisfactorily to all.

A limited few of the foreign born of the lower classes make good Americans, but the small percentage is not an advantage sufficient to justify the risk. The higher class ones who would make good Americans would not go on our farms.

E. A. BEELER.

Secretary Alabama Wool and Sheep Growers' Association, Pike Road, Ala.

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REGAINING THE PROSPERITY OF THE BLACK BELT

The city of Eufaula, through the agency of a united and determined citizenship has undertaken the solution of a problem which vitally effects every community, large or small in the Alabama Black Belt. That citizenship in among its other efforts will strive to blaze the way in restoring the productivity of the Black Belt lands of Alabama.

Thoughtful men in every section of the Black Belt have thought with alarm and concern over the effects of decreased productivity of the Black Belt lands and its inevitable results. A special writer in The Advertiser twenty years ago in commenting on the cause of this concern wrote in the columns of The Advertiser: "The lands lying between the city of Montgomery and the Chattahoochee river are the cheapest rich lands in the world. In no quarter of the globe can lands lying adjacent to communities which are good trade centers and which have the benefits of schools, churches and good roads, be bought so cheaply as the land in East Alabama." He could have truly included West Alabama. This was long before the coming of the boll weevil. The boll weevil and the negro exodus were but finishing blows to the prosperity of these Black Belt lands. Other causes, even the negro exodus, were effective before the boll weevil appared and rvolutionized where it did not destroy the industry of producing cotton.

It is useless but it may be interesting, to turn the leaves of the book of the past. Since the peace terms agreed upon at the close of the great war, a few Southern men have compared them with the terms which the South was forced to agree to accept at the close of the war. There was then no talk of stabilizing the currency conditions of the South, no proposals of helping the South get back on its feet. No outstanding philanthropist proposed funds for financing the agriculture of, or any other interest "in the States lately in rebellion."

The single agency then established and maintained for several years was the mistaken idea of Freedmen's Bureau, established to give direct monetary aid to the negro. This was a mistaken kindness, which afterwards proved to be disastrous to the South. For if there ever was a necessity for earnest and intelligent work that necessity faced the negro of the South. It would have been far better for him and his race if he had fallen to with hearty good will to his work on the farms and plantations, rather than to live in idleness and mischief and to divert himself with delusive talk of "forty acres and a mule." The members of his generation do not have a memory of this time in which the true misfortunes began in the South. The war itself had been disastrous to the Southern States and their institutions. The victorious North carried out its determination to destroy "the peculiar institution of the South," but they went ever farther. They actually established for awhile that which had never before been witnessed in the world, the domination and rule of Anglo-Saxons by an inferior race. This could not endure for any length of time. If the Southern white man had not succeeded in throwing off this submission contrary to all the instincts of the white race, he would have chosen the extinction of the white race. And that was the only way to the solution of the problem of Reconstruction than the one which was worked out.

But why this excursion into ancient history, may be asked by the reader of 1924? Because in this period the foundations for the troubles of the future were laid, even those of the present. The dragon's teeth were sown then. This generation of 1924 is only reaping its part of the stormy harvest. The negro sold his birthright for a mess of political pottage, a transitory lease of political power. The two races were driven apart and the hatreds and friction between them, of the last fifty years, was the direct results. Much of the hatred and bitterness of this time has resulted from this apparently ineradicle division of two races which should have been living in accord and harmony and engaged in working out the difficulties and problems which were common to both. If the negro had gone to work, willingly and cheerfully, at his portion of the task of restoring the stricken agriculture in the South, we would have had a different story to tell of agriculture in the South.

These active and often bloody controversies were followed by unfavorable and unhappy developments. The advancing business grew up a most unfavorable development. No permanent prosperity can be built up in an agricultural community on the advancing business. The advancing business, once highly esteemed and in which many fortunes were made, is a parasite that sucks the life blood of agriculture. The white man made the mistakes of thinking he could move his family and live in the nearest town, while he turned his productive farm or plantation over to tenants, often without energy of industry. He has continued to make this same mistake. In the Alabama Black Belt, it would be safe to say that 90 per cent, if not larger, is cultivated and directed by tenants who are not in the least interested in the welfare of the land. When this system began to come in the annual productivity of the land began to decrease and it has continued through the years to decrease.

There was, too, a considerable shifting of population in this period, which was a time of unrest and discontent. Thousands of good Alabama farmers moved completely away. Many of them went to Texas and many from the Black Belt to growing sections of the State, occupied by white farmers, sections which are still productive and prosperous.

The negro exodus is nothing new. It began as early as fifty years ago, when farm laborer found that he could easily find work for himself in what are commonly termed "public works", or in th industrial sections of the State. The moved slower than they did during th great exodus that was recorded as one o the results of the war, but it moved slow ly over a term of years.

Then came the crowning disaster—the coming of the boll weevil. During this time to which we have alluded, the one crop system was firmly established. As the wheat farmers of the West have learned, any one crop system of farming is disastrous. But no section with a one crop system ever suffered as severely as did the South, with its one crop of cotton, when it was assailed by the boll weevil. The last and largest exodus of the negro synchronized with the victory of the boll weevil. The negro no longer raised cotton. Even the advancing merchant refused to extend the credit necessary to keep him and his family going. In self defense he had to accept the higher wages offered him by the Northern industries. The depopulation of the Black Belt of the farming portion of the Alabama Black Belt was very nearly completed.

There are sixteen counties in the Alabama Black Belt, stretching from the Chattahoochee to the Mississippi line. Each census in the past twenty years has shown that these counties, with the possible exception of Montgomery and Dallas, have lost in population. The small growth in these two counties in population is represented in the growth of the cities of Montgomery and Selma, which offset a heavy decrease in population in the farming sections of the county.

It can not but be considered significant that these two cities, each in its own way and by differing methods, first among the Black Belt, waked to the grave material danger that there was in the vast stretches of depopulated farm lands and by united and intelligent action, strove with some success to avert this danger and restore the farms to productivity.

Eufaula is first among the smaller cities to seek and find a way for restoring the abandoned farm lands. Every other considerable Black Belt will study the methods of the united and aroused citizens of Eufaula. For they are grappling with a problem that is by no means local. And the magnitude of the task is recognized by the citizens of Eufaula. They have succeeded in uniting all the forces and most of the citizens of the community in the effort to face, study out and solve the difficulties.

The preliminary effort naturally enough takes the form of a Chamber of Commerce for by such an agency only can the citizens unite their thought and effort. The intention of the energetic organizers of the Chamber of Commerce is to make it a sort of super civic organization and to endow it with a budget that is surprisingly large under the circumstances. These workers in their canvass for supporters and helpers found a fine spirit of enthusiasm and a great support, a spirit which was made manifest at a great public meeting attended by all classes and conditions of citizens, who gave pledges of their support.

We, of the Black Belt of Alabama, realize that our material troubles have culminated on us. The time has come when we must solve these long standing difficulties or see our cotton and corn

fields relapse into fields for second growth pine or broom sedge. So a large and interested part of Alabama's citizenship watches with interest and wishes God speed to the intelligent effort of Eufaula to point the way to many Black Belt communities which are suffering from her identical ills.

Agriculture—1924.

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Condition of.

THE EDITORIAL ON THE BLACK BELT.

Editor The Advertiser:

I want to congratulate you in writing on what I consider the greatest editorial in the last ten years, entitled "For United Thought and United Action," appearing in your paper of recent date. I also read Mr. Jack Thorington's article, which I know from personal observation to be true in every detail.

I am glad to see your paper coming out frankly and calling the attention of all the people of Alabama, both the city man as well as the people of the rural sections, to the gravity of the present situation because it has been too much the policy of most large daily papers of Alabama as well as other Southern papers not to discuss unpleasant facts that to a certain extent might be shaking or rocking the boat of business stability. Conditions in rural sections depending altogether on agriculture have been going from bad to worse for the past eight years, and now it has come to the point that if some leaders do not call the attention of all to these deplorable and desperate conditions, and take hurried steps to correct at least some of them, as Mr. Thorington stated there is going to be absolute ruin for the Black Belt of Alabama.

You are absolutely correct in stating that the vast majority of the farmers are already broke and with the lands mortgaged in the more than seventy-five per cent of the cases what has the present outlook for our farmers? It is dark as midnight and unless immediate steps are taken to change conditions I cannot see much in store for either farmers, merchants, professional men or country bankers, evcept financial ruin.

I noted with interest Mr. Thorington's suggestion of having new immigration open to our section through Mobile and if we could get selective immigration from northern Europe of the best type, I believe it would be of great benefit to our section of the State. It has been my observation that our negro labor that has gone North and worked short hours at big wages is never dependable any more, as this labor will never be satisfied here in the South any more. The negro labor in the past that has been so satisfactory prior to the northern migration of recent years, in my opinion, will never be so again and we have got to get new labor from some other sections to take their places and bring back the productivity of our soils which has been to great extent lost through negro tenant labor. This great question should be brought to the attention of our Congressmen and Senators and urged to take such steps as they think best to give us aid before absolute collapse.

DR. R. B. McCANN.

Seale, Ala., Feb. 20, 1924.

ON GIVING WORK A TRIAL IN THE BLACK BELT.

Montgomery, Ala., Feb. 21, 1924.

Editor The Advertiser:

There seems to be something wrong with farms and farming here in the Black Belt as well as other parts of Alabama.

At least one would be led to so believe on reading the excellent editorials in your paper and the numerous letters from friends which likewise appear with frequency in your columns.

The writer has read all these editorials and letters with a great deal of interest. In addition, it has been my privilege to have listened to countless conversations along the same lines, viz: what is wrong and how to cure.

One man says that permanent pastures will be the salvation of the light soil sections and alfalfa and clovers the cure for black lands.

Another says that humus is all that is needed in the soil to make this a second Garden of Eden.

Still a third suggests a rotation of crops with velvet beans as the soil builder.

A fourth suggests tile drainage as the open sesame to prosperity.

Others tell us live stock and diversified farming.

And these are only a few of many.

Best of all, each and every one of these cures is a god one. Each will work, possibly some for quicker results than others.

However, there is one fundamental I believe has been overlookd and without which none of these cures will relieve the patient.

The medicine which seems to me of the first importance is WORK, spelled with capital letters.

This doesn't mean work on the part of the other fellow. It means work on the part of the farmer himself—the doffing of the white collar and the donning of the blue overall—the putting up of the automobile and the taking out of the plow, the corn cultivator or what not.

In my business I meet many farmers. It has been a very common practice for me to ask them why they were not milking a few cows, or feeding a few pigs or hens. The answers come back many time, "The help is all gone." "Can't get any help any more."

One farmer complained of not making any money from his farm. He had a fine piece of land and some fifty good cows. On questioning, I found that he had not seen a cow milked twice in two years.

Another was taking home a sack of potatoes for use on his table, bought in a store in Montgomery and probably shipped in from Georgia or Florida, or perhaps New Jersey. In answer to an inquiry, he stated that they hadn't gotten around to putting in enough potatoes at home last year. Yet I always see this man in town an average of one or possibly more days a week.

The reason I write this is because this is the most potential food section to be found anywhere. The land is here—none better—the sun is here almost the year around—the rains are plentiful, but the element lacking is Work, and it's here, too, if we'll use it.

I thought possibly you could build up some of your well written editorials on this

THE RURAL SECTIONS OF THE BLACK BELT.

We publish herewith a copy of a letter which Mr. Jack Thorington has written to Congressman John McDuffie, of the Mobile district, on the deplorable outlook, which confronts the rural section of the Black Belt. A copy of the letter was sent us because of the appearance in the columns of The Advertiser of an editorial lamenting the decadence of the agricultural lands in the Alabama Black Belt.

It will be noted that Mr. Thorington says:

The revival of what is known as the Black Belt is the greatest question before the people of Alabama today and I do not believe that the business men of this State realize the deplorable condition of the rural sections of the Black Belt. Unless something is done to remedy this condition, the effect on the banks and merchants of this section is going to be terrific.

Mr. Thorington knows of these conditions. He was the moving spirit of the movement which raised a large fund for the bringing in of new settlers to Montgomery county and the city's trade territory, a movement which has already brought a number of fine farmers to these lands. Mr. Thorington's business in inspecting lands has made him familiar with the deplorable conditions which he describes. His letter follows:

February 15, 1924.

Hon. J. B. McDuffie, Member of Congress,
Washington, D. C.

My dear Mr. McDuffie:

I have just taken an automobile ride under great difficulties over a large part of your Congressional district, and found the labor situation and agricultural conditions there appalling. The revival of what is known as the Black Belt is the greatest question today before the people of Alabama, and I do not believe the business men of the State realize the deplorable condition of the rural sections of the Black Belt. Unless something is done to remedy this condition, the business effect on the merchants and banks is going to be terrific.

There are only two solutions to this problem that I can see at the present time. The first is the building up of small industrial plants in these sections that will supply a market for all farm products raised by the farmers and also help to bring labor to these sections. It is a mistaken idea that factories take away all labor. I will illustrate this by referring to the town of Tallassee in Elmore County, Alabama, where there are two large cotton mills. Families are attracted there to work in the cotton mills. The father and some of his sons may work in the mills, but other members of his family run the farm and sell their products to the factory operators. You will find in this section that these parties get for their cotton one-fourth of a cent more per pound than any other farmers. They have an outlet for their chickens, eggs and milk. From Tallassee to Eclectic, a distance of about ten miles, you will virtually find a prosperous farm on every forty acres. Statistics show that Elmore county is the second agricultural county in the State. If there were places in the Black Belt like Tallassee, the counties in the Black Belt where such towns were located would be as prosperous as Elmore county.

The second solution is as follows: If a second Ellis Island were established at the port of Mobile, under the restricted immigration laws, Alabama would receive a class of desirable immigrants. History shows that the country in proximity to ports where immigrants enter is always prosperous. The negro has gone from this section and our only hope is in the bringing in of desirable white people, who are willing to do their own labor and who love to work. You can not do anything with a dairy cow unless it is milked by a milker who likes cows and knows them. In order for a cow to do well, she has to be treated with kindness and consideration.

I believe you can make yourself the biggest man in the State by re-populating the Black Belt with desirable foreign immigrants. I hope you will see that some amendment is drawn to the immigration laws along this line.

Yours very truly,
JACK THORINGTON.

Mr. Thorington's remedy for conditions which he describes is two fold, the acquisition by the various communities of small industries and the establishment and operation by the government of a sub-immigration station at Mobile, where the coming of immigrants interested in agriculture can be encouraged. What the Black Belt, facing economic disaster as it is, needs is specific remedies. The Advertiser at some future date expects to comment more freely on the specific remedies suggested by Mr. Thorington to bring about changes in a condition which will surely prove disastrous to business interests in every town in the Black Belt, if it continues.

MAR 8 - 1924

LOST ON COTTON; NEGRO TO LEAVE

Frominent Negro Farmer Urges White People to Find Employment For His Race.

Huntsville, Ala, March 6.—William Harris, prominent negro farmer d president of the Tennessee Valley Negro Fair Association, has given the Daily Times of Huntsville a statement expressing the belief that Madison county, which has not suffered nearly as much as other counties or sections from the migration of negroes northward, is due to feel the full force of the northward movement this winter unless something is done by the white people.

Harris declares that the negro cotton grower has not come out of his year's labor with anything left; that cotton picking is practically finished, and other farm operations where labor to any considerable extent is used will be suspended until March, leaving the negro tenant with no means of livelihood until spring. Naturally he will hear the call of high wages in the North, Harris declares, unless some work is provided for him. His suggestion as a solution of the problem is that whatever road work is to be undertaken be started at one and that as much public work as possible be provided

Adopt Wheel Tax.

At a special meeting of the Madison County Board of Commissioners the rate of the new wheel tax on all vehicles for the benefit of the public roads and the method of collection was definitely decided upon. The annual tax will be effective and payable on the first day of the incoming year and the monthly commercial tax will be effective on the first day of December, and each month thereafter. The scale has been agreed on as follows: One-horse wagon, $1.50; two-horse wagon, $2.50; one-horse buggy, $1; two-horse buggy, $2.50; one-horse commercial wagon, $1 per month; two-horse wagon, $2.50 per month; four-horse wagon $5 per month; six-horse wagon, $7 50 per month. The money collected from is tax will be used in the precinct and as near as practicable on the roads closest to where the payee resides.

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GEORGIA FARM LANDS.

On this page are several letters from officials of loan and trust corporations operating in Georgia and elsewhere commending The Constitution for publishing the news of farm land activities, and stressing the undoubtable facts that these lands today are lower than they will ever be again, and constitute safe and dependable investments.

President W. M. Elliott, of the Chickamauga Trust company, of Chattanooga, very correctly says "the fact that farm lands are again beginning to sell is an evidence of a revived interest in agriculture and an improvement in farming conditions in Georgia."

Vice President Coleman, of the Georgia Loan and Trust company, Macon, declares that "undoubtedly this is the time to invest in farm lands in Georgia, as the signs all point toward a higher valuation in the fall of this year."

President Ellis, of the Empire Loan and Trust company, Americus, believes that The Constitution's course in publishing the facts about farm land activities will prevent many discouraged farmers from selling their lands "for much less than their real value."

There is no mistaking the soundness of the views expressed by these men of affairs whose business it is to watch farm land values, and to correctly appraise conditions for their money-lending clients. In that respect they are naturally more conservative than average individuals, and it is significant that there should come from such authorities such a cheering note of optimism regarding so potent a factor in Georgia's economic life.

Georgia farm lands, in all reasonable probability, will enhance in values considerably during the present year, and the present indications of renewed activities in sales and transfers emphasize that prediction.

There are a number of good reasons to sustain such a prediction. The spirit of cooperation between business men and farmers that is so resourceful in sections in providing better markets and in making rural life more inviting is one of them. The gradually increasing application of the rules of reason in growing cotton under boll weevil conditions is another. The rapidly growing tendency toward balanced programs, so that food and feed may be entirely raised at home, and other money crops besides cotton is another. The anticipated home-seeker movement from the stricken northwest into the southeast this approaching spring and summer is still another, and most important.

If cotton farmers in particular will avoid the dangers of increased acreage and will adhere strictly to a system of intensive cultivation and poisoning, the prices for lint cotton will continue to rule satisfactory, and with the many other staple money crops that now invite attention, there is every reason to believe that 1924 will be a banner year for the state's agricultural interests.

NAPIER ADVISES AGAINST GEORGIA COLONY OF JAPS

Declares Settlement Proposal for Rice Lands Would Not Be Advisable at Present Time.

Establishment of a colony of Japanese rice farmers in south Georgia, which was proposed recently, would not be advisable at this time, according to an opinion handed down Thursday by Attorney General George M. Napier. Mr. Napier bases his conclusions on the fact that the national congress has recently passed legislation excluding Japanese from this country. The bill is now awaiting the signature of President Coolidge to become law and, under the circumstances, the attorney general believes it would not be the part of wisdom to bring a large colony of Japanese from California to Georgia as suggested.

Mr. Napier's opinion was asked by the commissioner of immigration when G. Ledsinger, of south Georgia, advised that official that he was considering a proposal to bring a colony of Japs to this state from California to develop neglected rice plantations on the Satillo river, in Camden county. The proposal was that the Japs should either purchase or lease the property.

Have Right To Own Land.

Under the Georgia law, Mr. Napier points out, Japanese have the legal right to buy or lease lands in this state. The statute dealing with this question provides that subjects of governments at peace with the United States have the same rights as citizens of other states resident in this state, with the privilege of purchasing, holding and conveying real estate in Georgia.

The attorney general states that the question of bringing Japs from another state into Georgia does not come properly under the jurisdiction of the legal department of the state and it is not his purpose "to advance gratuitous advice upon the subject." "However," he continues, "I would be derelict in my duty not to say that we already have one race question in Georgia which, by long experience, we are getting along with fairly well, but to inject another might involve us in worse difficulties than those we have heretofore encountered."

He concludes his opinion with the words:

"It would seem desirable not to encourage the settlement of the California Japanese in Georgia at this time."

Opinion of Napier.

The opinion in full reads as follows:

Hon. J. J. Brown, the Commissioner of Agriculture, State Capitol.

Dear Sir: This is an acknowledgment of letter of Mr. G. Ledsinger, which you handed me in person this morning.

Mr. Ledsinger submits to your department questions "relative to bringing Japanese from the state of California to develop the neglected rice plantations on the Satillo river in Camden county, either under purchase or lease on part of the Japs."

Mr. Ledsinger adds:

"I trust it will be convenient to both the attorney-general and yourself to give me all the information on this subject as promptly as possible as the Japanese legation at New Orleans is waiting for same."

So far as the mere legal question of the right of aliens to hold land in this state is concerned, that question is settled by Code Section 2173, which is as follows:

"Aliens, the subjects of governments at peace with the United States and this state, so long as their governments remain at peace, shall be entitled to all the rights of citizens of other states resident in this state, and shall have the privilege of purchasing, holding and conveying real estate in this state."

This law is based upon acts of the legislatures of 1785 and 1849.

Act of Congress.

It is a matter of common knowledge that our national congress has recently passed an act excluding the Japanese from the right of entrance into the United States as immigrants. While our state has had no occasion to enact a law upon Japanese settlers, the federal government could justly make no complaint if this state should do so. The exclusion act of congress referred to is now before the president for his approval or veto. The Japanese referred to by Mr. Ledsinger are now in California. Whether there would be raised a Japanese question in Georgia, by the admission of Japanese settlers that are now in a sister state, is a matter not properly within the province of the legal department of this state, and, of course, it is not my purpose to advance gratuitous advice upon the subject. However, I would be derelict in my duty as a public official not to say that we have already one race question in Georgia, which by long experience we are getting along with fairly well in a general sense; but that to inject another race question, probably of more serious aspect, by admitting a non-assimilable race of Asiatics to settle permanently in Georgia, might involve us in worse difficulties than those we have heretofore encountered.

Code Section 1983 constitutes the commissioner of agriculture of this state ex-officio commissioner of immigration of this state.

His duties are defined in Section 1985, as follows:

"It shall be the duty of the said commissioner to correspond with all bureaus, societies, corporations, and organizations having for their purposes the development of this state and of the southern states of these United States, the bringing of capital, homeseekers, and acceptable immigrants to this and to the said southern states; to advise them as to the resources and advantages of this state; to communicate, correspond with, and furnish all information to all persons seeking same along the lines indicated."

Since it is not lawful for a state to commit any act or to do anything in conflict with treaty obligations of the United States, and, since the act of congress excluding Japanese from the right to own land in the United States is now under consideration by the president, having passed both houses of congress, it would seem desirable not to encourage the settlement of the California Japanese in Georgia at this time.

Respectfully submitted,
GEORGE M. NAPIER,
Attorney General.

April 24, 1924.

Georgian Sees Cotton Growing In Valley Brazil

Vast fields of long-staple cotton, untouched by boll weevil and thriving under splendid climatic conditions, is described as a "revelation" by a former Atlantan, H. G. Jacobs, who is now sojourning in a southeastern section of Brazil.

Mr. Jacobs has written an interesting account of his visits to sections in Brazil where cotton is grown in abundance, and tells of the keen interest of natives in cotton production.

His letter follows:

"Editor Constitution: I think you will agree with me in saying that it is quite a surprise, even for an adopted Georgian, to travel some 8,000 miles from home and crossing the equator, to land in a northeastern Brazilian state, and find long-staple cotton growing in abundance; in fact, it is the principal industry as well as export of the country in which I am located, i. e., the state of Ceara, United States of Brazil.

"Our work here, being done for the government, comes directly under the auspices of the president, His Excellency Ildefonso Albano, who is a very keen student of cotton and has been untiring in his efforts to produce better cotton.

"Senhor Albano has also published a pamphlet relative to the cotton situation in Ceara.

"An old chronicle says:

Soil Very Rich.

And, about 10 miles from the mouth of the Jaguaribe, on its right bank, there is a town called Aracaty situated on the lower extremity of the rich and vast alluvial plains of the Jaguaribe valley, that extends up country to a distance of about 80 miles.

"Here on this vast alluvial plains, great quantities of the best long-staple cotton can be grown, though grown at present by the most primitive methods, without cultivation at all save with a hoe; cotton that brings the best of prices in the European markets and stands but third for fineness and length of the staple.

"It is here that cotton is truly grown in the primitive, as the seeds are planted in a hole dug in the ground with a hoe, these holes spaced about two paces apart and planted; together with the cotton, beans and corn in alternate rows. The care of the plants is simple, the weeds chopped down or pulled out and the cotton hoed; no plows or cultivators are used, and when the cotton is picked it is ginned by hand-turned machines often of the very crudest construction, pressed almost without a single exception by hand. The small bales eventually find their way to the coast, and market, on the back of a patient burro.

Enormous Yields.

"In spite of these very crude methods of producing a crop the yield per acre is enormous. Quoting from the 'Textile World' of February 11, 1922:

The most astounding feature of the conditions in Brazil is the almost incredible yields per acre, which can quite easily be secured even under present conditions, and these are certainly not ideal as regards the care taken of the crop in any essential respect, e. g., seed selection and maintenance of a pure seed supply. Yields of well over a bale an acre are clearly substantiated; and if only the system of handling the crop could be revolutionized—improved seems to be too mild a word—there seems to be no reason why Brazil should not become the greatest cotton-growing country in the world.

"Practically the entire state of Ceara, which comprises some 64,000 square miles, is a natural cotton country. Cotton can be cultivated anywhere in the state. The cotton grown on the mountains, especially the Uruburetama and the mountains round Pedra Branca, is famous; good cotton can also be raised on the Aratanha, Maranguape and the mountains round Sobral. In all the fertile valleys with deep alluvial soil, in which plows can be used, the very best cotton can be cultivated. Of these the most important is the lower Jaguaribe valley, in the eastern part of the state, which produces the very best cotton of Brazil.

President Interested.

"The greatest disciple of the cotton industry in Brazil today is His Excellency Ildefonso Albano, the present president of the state of Ceara. During the past several years he has made a close study of the cotton industry from many an-

gles, has been untiring in his efforts to produce better cotton, and more of it, and today is without doubt the best informed man on the subject of cotton in South America.

"He says in a very valuable as well as instructive pamphlet, which he has written and published, distributing the same not only throughout South America but North America as well:

A very important role in the history of cotton is reserved to the valley of the Jaguaribe, the Brazilian Nile.

(Signed) "H. G. JACOBS."
(Formerly of Atlanta.)
Fortalezia, Brazil. April 1, 1924.

GEORGIA FARM TENANCY.

This is the farm renting season in Georgia and all over the state both landlords and tenants are considering arrangements for next year.

In Georgia the percentage of farms worked by tenants is high, ranging all the way from 10 per cent in the sparsely settled mountain regions and the lowlands of the coast to 90 per cent in the southwestern and middle sections of the state. In only one other section of the United States does the percentage of farm tenancy run higher and that is in a comparatively small area in the Mississippi valley where the tenant figures climb to the proximity of 100 per cent.

In Georgia the percentage of white tenants is highest in the northern portion of the state. In fact, in the northeastern section of Georgia will be found the area of highest density of white farm tenant population to be found in the United States, and in this particular is approached only by a small area in northern Texas. Colored tenancy runs high in South Carolina, through middle and southwest Georgia and reaches its greatest density in Mississippi and Arkansas.

In view of these facts, furnished by data collected by the U. S. department of agriculture, it becomes apparent that the question of farm tenancy, and especially of white farm tenancy, is one of highest importance in Georgia.

On all sides the complaint is heard that absentee land ownership and constantly shifting tenant population combine to retard development and hurt the state.

A serious defect in our tenant system is undoubtedly found in the loose and archaic custom of renting, many contracts being made for only one year. Under such contracts the tenant is constantly faced by uncertainty and takes but passing interest in either his farm or his community, and the landowner is confronted year after year with the problem of finding new tenants. Under this system land, buildings, community interest, tenant and owner all suffer.

In Georgia a very large percentage of farms are worked by tenants who pay a part of the crops as rent. Less than 30 per cent of our tenant farmers hold their farms for five years, whereas in New England and some middle western states five-year leases are much more common. Long leases give the tenant some of the advantages of ownership, tend to build up and protect the property and elevate the community citizenship. Long leases check the wandering habit, long a serious drawback to tenant farming, render the community life more fixed and dependable and benefit all concerned. Therefore it is evident that the long lease should be encouraged and the short lease abandoned as rapidly as possible.

FLORIDA AND GEORGIA.

The Manufacturers' Record makes the astounding statement that from September 1, 1923, to August 1, 1924—11 months—Florida shipped foodstuffs to other parts of the country to the extent of 103,788 solid cars.

When it is considered that this includes only interstate shipments, and does not include the enormous state consumption due to the hundreds of thousands of tourists, in addition to the permanent population who are fed annually from Florida's orchards and fields, the gross extent of Florida's food production is perhaps far in excess of California or any other state in the Union for production other than wheat.

In this connection L. M. Rhodes, of Florida's state marketing bureau, has given a tabulation of the chief commodities grown for interstate shipments.

In the 11 months stated there were 36,064 carloads of oranges and 23,066 of grapefruit shipped out of Florida. This is a total citrus interstate movement, for the 335 days, of nearly 60,000 carloads.

Think of it! And only a few years ago a spring freeze literally wiped out the citrus industry, and its rehabilitation since has been in connection with a system of balanced production in which tomatoes celery, melons and potatoes predominate. That state ships more than 10,000 carloads of winter tomatoes alone. It ships fully that number of cars of celery. And all of these products, through organized marketing system, not only reach the outside markets when the prices are higher, but the distribution is so regulated that no market is glutted with Florida production on any one day.

The state to the south of us has a great asset in its climate which brings hundreds of thousands of tourists into the state each year, but it has also a great asset in its fruit and food producing industry, which is much more potential than the average person realizes.

In this respect, too, Florida offers a lesson to Georgia. South Georgia, particularly, can produce with equal success every food commodity, except citrus, that Florida produces. The south Georgia marketing follows immediately the Florida marketing by reason of temperature differentials. It is also at a time when there is no other competition. With proper marketing cooperation, including grading and packing, south Georgia can accomplish in growing foodstuff just what Florida accomplishes. Then why not? It takes organization more than anything else.

Making the Country Better for Negroes.

Civilization depends largely on environments and conditions. The progress of the negro in the South has been due to these influences and the situation is improving rapidly under new farming conditions.

Prone to follow the easiest way, an inherent trait of character which the negro could not eliminate in a couple of hundred years of civilization, the one-crop system of cotton naturally contributed to his state of ease and contentment.

With the advent of the boll weevil and the upheaval in economic conditions the negroes have responded to the demand of a new era in a rather remarkable manner, just as they have answered the call for education.

In a resume of the situation, as recounted in official reports, it is shown that the negroes on the farms are in infinitely better condition than ever before and the McCormick Messenger, writing on this point says:

Over 31,000 negro farm homes used better selected food during 1923 as a result of cooperative extension work, according to reports to the United Department of Agriculture. In many cases this was accomplished by growing more home garden products and keeping pigs, poultry, and dairy animals for which sufficient feed crops were produced on the farm.

The Augusta farming territory is reaping results from this system of farming and it will be only a few years before every farm in this section will be utilized and more or less intensively cultivated.

Of course, there will be hundreds of white families returning to the land and the negroes will learn and practice a better system of agriculture, all of which will materially aid the prosperity and progress of the entire community—city and country, alike.

THE SOUTH LEADS.

The farm tendency in the south is toward the intensive cultivation of small acreage, as against the old plantation plan of vast acreage and a slow, obtuse method of cultivation.

This is emphatically indicated by the farm sales during 1924—the number of sales to date increasing 220 per cent, while the gross acreage shows an increase of only 7 per cent.

These figures have been compiled from surveys recently made by the national association of real estate boards. They are authentic, and illustrate, beyond challenge, that the south is not only growing in agricultural importance more rapidly than any other section of the country, but growing more rapidly in progressive scientific farming; for the first lesson in scientific farming is to increase the production of an acre rather than to increase the acreage.

In order to do this there must be concentrated upon the acre the work that has heretofore, under the old plan, been spread out over several acres.

This new method has been one of the lessons of growing cotton under boll weevil conditions. And in teaching its great value in that branch of farming it has demonstrated its value in all.

It is a phenomenal gain in number of farms sold in a year—220 per cent. It shows, in addition to the tendency in the south toward smaller farms and intensive cultivation, a very noticeable break away from the old tenant system.

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development along these lines. During the present year, farm lands have been unusually active and scores of farmers from adjoining states, notably North Carolina, have bought and moved into Georgia. Balanced agriculture and intensive cultivation, so thoroughly advocated in this state, have been responsible.

It is this tendency that has been responsible for the development of tobacco growing. Scores of Carolina farmers have moved into the state for that single purpose.

The surveys referred to are most encouraging, and ought to inspire Georgians to greater activity along the lines of cooperation, and scientific farming; and to inspire Georgians further to a deeper love for their own state and section.

Tenantry the Agricultural Problem in the South

BY MARTIN V. CALVIN,

Specialist in Agriculture and Economics, Georgia Department of Agriculture.

The situation as to agriculture in Georgia, and in sister cotton states, is very naturally arousing a widespread and an active interest. Primarily, this applies to cotton. The subject is being discussed in the newspapers from day to day. Suggestions are being made in the matter of ways and means through the agency of which the problem may be solved. In trying to devise a plan by which the problem may be satisfactorily solved one must bear in mind the fact that there is nothing academic in it; for it is a plain business proposition. It is, moreover, a decidedly economic question.

A number of inquiries have found their way to the writer's table—all seeking information as to the number of abandoned acres, designated a number of years ago, throughout New England, as "abandoned farms." There is no definite data on the subject. Taking a bunch of authorized facts, we may, by parity of reasoning, arrive at a fairly correct conception as to the acreage in cotton that was eliminated in Georgia by the boll weevil, during 1919-1923. During those five years 22,403,000 acres were planted in cotton; of that number, on account of the ravages of the weevil, it was deemed impracticable to pick more than 21,191,000 acres, so, of the grand total planted, 1,212,000 acres were abandoned by the pickers. In order to ascertain the exact fact, we must boil down the total number of acres to the annual average number planted and harvested during the five years. We find that the annual average number of acres planted was 4,480,600: the annual average number of acres harvested was 4,238,200; the acreage not worth the effort and time to pick amounted to 242,400 acres equivalent to 6,060 40-acre farms. The unharvested or unpicked acreage was less than 6 per cent of the acreage planted.

Migration of Negroes.

It is frequently suggested that a great swath in the acreage of all crops, resulted because of the migration of negroes to the western and eastern states. That may be a fact; I doubt it. My own observation leads me to believe that by far the greater number of negroes, who have gone to the industries west and east, were town and city negroes. Those who have left our farms may be found in our smaller and larger cities. Many of the latter are involuntary idlers for the reason they are not fitted for the work they are willing to undertake; many are vagrants by preference—do not wish to work; will not work.

The writer is confident that a large number of farm negroes now in our small and large cities could be won back to the farm by a judicious course of procedure. Let's see about that. There is a Latin phrase which carries more in two words than our own English in five words—mutatis mutandis, i. e., necessary changes must be made. I have given a liberal translation to the phrase. This declaration can not be challenged: A complete change must be made in the quarters, the rations, the wages, etc., of tenants. That complete change means betterment in every way. Houses more comfortable, rations more liberal, wages in keeping with the work that will be required to be done. I know what I am suggesting. When I was actively engaged in farming, I studied the creature comforts of my hands. I had an eye to their health. I never permitted them to go to work in the fields until the dew has disappeared. They were kept busy around the barn and the tool house. No time lost. I came to a knowledge of the wisdom of that course by the fact that one of my men was frequently incapacitated for work because of chills. I wondered why he had chills, until one morning I saw him as he came from the field for breakfast. I noticed that his pantaloons were saturated up to his knees; his mule was wet up to her knees. Instantly I ordered the change referred to. After that day, that man never lost an hour from illness or other incapacity.

Let's turn back to the question of tenant farms. I was desirous to know, that I might tell you, just how many farms were operated by tenants in the three geographical divisions of this state. I have never seen that view of the case presented. Patient work evolved the figures. As stated in a recent article of mine, in this up-to-date newspaper, there are 310,732 farms in Georgia. Of the total number, 206,964, or 66.4 per cent, are operated by tenants. Of the number last mentioned, there are in north Georgia 42,879 farms, or 20.7 per cent; in middle Georgia, 84,344 farms, or 40.8 per cent; in south Georgia, 79,741 farms, or 38.5 per cent. The greater number in middle Georgia is due to the fact that that section was the center of the old plantation system which made Georgia, in 1860, one of the wealthiest states in the union.

Tenant Farming.

I repeat and reiterate the declaration: I have several times sought to bud into the public mind, namely, that if we hope to realize fruitful expectancy during 1925, which year is almost at the threshold of our homes, farmers must equip their farms with new and improved labor-saving farm implements and improved farm machinery; must select the best seed for planting; must use high-grade fertilizer under all crops liberally—not less than four hundred (400) pounds per acre; must practice the most improved methods of cultivation. Reference is respectfully had to all farmers; comparatively speaking, a few farmers have profitably laid under contribution the farm specialties to which most earnest attention has been, and is again, directed.

Tenant farming: There is a vast difference between farm hands and farm tenants. The latter have, as a rule, been left to themselves, the only requirement being a certain number of bales of cotton per farm. All such farms, under pre-boll weevil conditions, produced one 500-pound bale of cotton per three acres. Quantity of fertilizer applied under cotton per acre? An ever descending minimum. And the land becoming poorer and poorer. Humus ever added to the soil of such farms? One would be compelled to use a "high-powered" microscope to discover as much as 1-90th of 1 per cent.

On a well regulated tenant farm the requirmeent is that every tenant shall plant, cultivate and harvest, in addition to cotton, a given number of acres in corn, oats, sweet potatoes, sugar or sorghum cane, and have in pasture, common to all, a milch cow and a few hogs; also, near the tenant home on the farm, of course, 10 to 15 hens and a fine cockbird. You ought! I could give you the details of such a farm I visited and closely inspected a few years ago.

Agriculture—1924.
Condition of.

General.

PRACTICAL BOLL WEEVIL CONTROL

The American Cotton Association was organized just as the world war was closing and at a time when a very dangerous surplus of American cotton was beginning to pile up as the result of diminished consumption by European countries. The policy adopted by the organization at the outset was curtailment of acreage, fixation of prices, and holding cotton from the markets to force the price to the desired point. The association accomplished one thing beyond all question. The reduction of acreage came as the result of intense propaganda circulated through the offices of this organization. Farmers also held their cotton in response to propaganda from the same source. They held it from a market value of around 35 cents until it went down to below 10.

The association may be said to have demonstrated two things in agricultural economics—wise adjustment of production to consumption by concerted action, and the foolishness of holding movements to force prices upwards beyond the law of supply and demand. As an organization the American cotton association was a failure because one of its policies was uneconomic and brought loss to those who pursued it.

Montgomery Advertiser

There has been little left of this organization for the past two years except its chief officers, who are J. S. Wannamaker, of South Carolina, and Harvey Jordan, of Georgia. The former is a sincere and intense character, but something of a dreamer and an impractical idealist. The latter is a practical cotton grower, who knows cotton from the seed to the cloth, and who has been identified with all the movements looking to organization of cotton growers during the past quarter of a century, until the Farm Bureau seemed to have found an economic policy of marketing. 1-16-27

During the past year these two gentlemen conceived the idea of engaging in field demonstration work in fighting the boll weevil. They secured donations from various sources and proceeded to go out into the fields of the cotton belt from the Atlantic coast to the Rio Grande and conduct practical demonstrations of how to grow cotton in spite of the boll weevil.

Recently a pamphlet containing detailed reports of these demonstrations and their results has been issued. There were 833 of these demonstrations in eleven states, and the details contain the name of the farmer, acres grown, kind of seed, kind and amount of fertilizer, date of weevil appearance, poison and frequency of application, dates and frequency of cultivation, amount of cotton produced, cost of production, money returns, and net income. Poison was furnished free and some for distribution were also do-

cating something of the results demonstrations, this pamphlet a studied as it relates to Alabama

There were in this state 74 demtions, 11 of which are described. otal acreage of the 11 was 104. The ge amount of fertilizer used was 480 ds per acre, comparing with a general rage of 230 over the state. Poison was applied an average of four times, and the plats were cultivated an average of 8.2 times. The average yield of cotton obtained was 730 pounds of seed, or 264 pounds of lint, comparing with an average of 98.5 pounds as determined by official estimate for the counties in which the 11 demonstrations were conducted. The average money return was $96.30 per acre. the reported cost of production was $29.10 per acre, and the net income was $67.20.

The average yield of lint cotton ran from 98.5 pounds in Pike county to 483.5 in Clay; the net income ran from $13.71 in Coffee to $172.94 in Clay. The times cultivated ran from five in Coffee and Blount to 16 in Butler. Weevils appeared from May 20 in Pike to July 12 in Jackson. Weevils and squares were picked in three instances in addition to other methods of fighting, and in these the returns were about the average.

It is rather apparent that the average cost of production under these methods is stated at too low a figure; but if 50 per cent be added, an average profit of $52.70 remains, and the final results are without doubt a demonstration of the practicability of producing good yields of cotton at a profit in spite of the weevil.

The pamphlet states the purpose of repeating the efforts this year in every county in the cotton belt, with an average of six demonstrations to the county. Mr. Jordan seems to have sufficient backing to be able to do this. If such a widespread demonstration is accomplished with comparable results a very practical and valuable contribution will have been made to Southern agriculture.

This method appeals to the every-day interested person as being just what is needed to get results. It may be said that it is just what official workers ought to be doing. It has been positively proven by both official and private experiment that cotton can be grown at a profit under weevil conditions. The prerequisites have been found to be fertile soil, intensive cultivation, and weevil control. The latter can be had to the degree necessary to mature a profitable yield. It is accomplished either by climatic control, culture, or poison—most successfully by all three factors operating together. These things have been known for some time, and yet last year one of the lowest, if not the lowest, average yields on record was experienced. Less than 5 per cent of the stalks were destroyed, and this is fundamental to weevil control. Not more than that proportion of the cotton acreage was poisoned in any manner, and much less properly so. Doubtless less than one-fourth the cotton growers cultivated to that degree of intensity necessary to any sort of success. All the big yields were obtained after heavy application of fertilizers or on naturally fertile soils, and yet the average amount of fertilizer used last year was 260 pounds on 37 per cent of the acreage.

The processes noted in the above paragraph are now recommended by all the official agricultural workers, as well as by those practical growers who have tried them out, as in the pamphlet here referred to. Evidently what is needed is to sell the processes to the great mass of cotton growers. This will never be done by resolutions, speeches, or writings. It will be accomplished, if at all, by practical demonstration such as was carried on last year by Mr. Jordan on more than 800 farms and such as he proposes to carry on this year on 5,000 farms.

Every county in Alabama ought this year to have not less than ten demonstrations of the proper method of growing cotton under weevil infestation. Certainly ten farmers may be found who will do the right things at the right time and in the right manner. Practically every county has a paid agent who could be carrying on this work. The elder Knapp founded the extension service along demonstration lines; he knew that the psychology of the cotton grower demanded to be shown; when the workers quit demonstrating and go to resoluting, talking, and writing, the farmer quits being interested.

In the meantime Mr. Jordan and the men who are backing him financially are to be congratulated. The New York Cotton Exchange members have contributed $82,500 and the U. S. Steel Corporation $75,000 to his work. Others are contributing. The reasons are obvious—the shortage in the production of cotton will seriously affect the business of these contributors. Mr. Jordan claims none of the discoveries of method or process which he is demonstrating; he merely knows the temperament of the cotton grower and how the solution of the problem may be sold

HOUSING ON THE FARM.

To The Commercial Appeal:

I read with great pleasure your editorial on "Better Housing for Tenants." Your two socialist correspondents for "Marx Mann" is an obvious pseudonomasia) seems to have their hair pretty closely cropped to brains containing a good deal of common sense. The sum and substance of the whole matter is that the way to keep the negro farmer in the south is to do the utmost that can be done to make his living conditions reasonably satisfactory. To increase his output will be a slow business, requiring the development of a higher grade of intelligence—especially in the landlord—but if your correspondents are correct in their estimates of the cost of furnishing him with a fairly decent home, and they seem to be, a very decided inducement to him to stay where he is is achievable at a very modest outlay on the part of the plantation owner.

Why not try it? Of course, the immediate reconstruction of all the "tenant houses" (a term significant of the differentiation of these shelters from all other residences) is out of the question; but it would seem that most of them could be reconstructed along the lines suggested by "Social Sam," and the materials of the remainder could be largely utilized in making something more suitable for human habitation. 2-10-24

The negro is particularly suited to farm work. He does not seem to be oppressed with the loneliness of farm life as is the white man, and especially the white woman, on whom the greater burden of life on the farm seems to fall. (The percentage of insanity is greater among farmers' wives, I am told, than among any other class in the community.)

It is only a step of three or four generations for him back to the jungle, with its solitude and silence. He is not leaving the plantation because of the attractions of city life, but because the city offers to him a better living, better food, shelter, etc., than the farm offers.

Much more, very much more, might be done for the negro tenant farmer than the improvement of his housing; but that seems to be the one direction in which inducement can be offered to him to stay south and cultivate the land, at the least cost to the land owner. Encouragement to him to make a garden, to supply himself with a variety of foods at a merely nominal cost, to raise pigs and chickens, to keep a cow, etc., would go far to keep the negro on the land. The negro is peculiarly a subject for paternalism. In spite of unkind criticism, the mildest form of which is that he is not dependable, the negro responds readily to an employer who lends him that helping hand that he so much needs. And the most immediate way to extend that helping hand to him, it seems to me, is to give him a decent sort of home.

You could not do more for the peo-

ple who are losing their labor to the northern factories than to impress this fact on them. J. C. L.

Selective Immigration.

Agreement on the Simmons amendment to the immigration bill by Senate and House conferees is encouraging to southern agricultural interests. If the amended bill is finally adopted by Congress and approved by the president, which it will probably be, it will not only go a long way toward solving the labor problem in this section of the country, but will make for a better class of citizenship both in cities and in agricultural communities.

The southern states have lost great numbers of negro farm laborers in recent years. The exodus now is viewed as neither temporary nor spasmodic. The movement from the cotton states continues unabated, fluctuating at periods, but nevertheless constant.

All along we have been of the opinion that the negro was making a mistake in deserting the farm for the industrial centers. In conjunction with others who have kept in touch with conditions, we have tried to point out to him the error of his way, but there has been no perceptible let-up in the migration. Governmental investigations indicate that the various states lost from seven to ten per cent of their negro farm labor in the 12 months from July, 1922, to July, 1923.

In addition there has been a steady movement of the white race from the farm to the city. The opportunities offered by scientific agricultural pursuits have not been able to overcome the lure of urban life. Many of the brightest young men born and reared in rural communities have entered college to study law or medicine or qualify for practice in other proffessions. Some of them have taken commercial courses and fitted themselves for positions in big business and industrial institutions. When they receive their diplomas, with few exceptions, they quit the farm or small town and take up their abode in the congested centers.

Thus it is that for years there has been a steady drift away from the soil.

There has been a gradual curtailment of immigration since the beginning of the war in 1914. Industries that prior to that time looked to the steady supply of foreign labor for man-power were forced to recruit with help from the states. Inducements were offered in the form of high wages. These were made most attractive. In some trades mechanics who, 10 years ago, regarded $5.00 a day as highly remunerative now draw $12 and $15 for every eight hours of work. Today the common laborer demands and receives as much for a day's work as some skilled mechanics were paid before the war.

In view of these conditions, therefore, the movement from the farm to the city is not surprising. The fact that the higher cost of living in the city leaves the toiler, in the majority of instances, less surplus than he would have had if he had remained on the farm has so far failed to bring about a reaction. This will come only after years of actual experience, if it comes at all.

The agricultural interests of the cotton-producing states have suffered far more because of this movement than those of other sections. In the great grain-producing states of the west and northwest, labor-saving machinery to a large extent has made the farmer immune to the serious troubles that the labor shortage has brought to growers in the south.

The Kansas wheat farmer no longer has to send multitudes of gleaners into the field at harvest time, as was necessary in other days. Gasoline propelled reapers that cut, bind and stack move over the ground faster than a man can walk. From the breaking of ground to the gathering in of the sheaves there is a machine for each particular kind of work required, one-man controlled machine that will do more work and do it better than a dozen men could do in the old way.

But cotton is peculiarly a hand-power crop. Machinery enters very little into its production. No machine has been invented that will successfully chop or hoe cotton, and no machine has been invented that will pick cotton. The crop must be worked and picked today pretty much as it was a half a century ago. It requires farm labor and lots of it. For these reasons the drift of white men to the cities and exodus of negro labor to the north has left the cotton farmer in a bad way.

If the immigration bill as agreed to by the conferees becomes a law, it will materially decrease the number of difficulties now confronting southern agriculturists. The main provision of the Simmons amendment follows:

> Whenever the Legislature or the governor of a state makes a request of the secretary of labor for skilled farm laborers or for skilled farmers who are expert in agronomy, forestry, horticulture or animal husbandry of any nationality, for the purpose of filling a specific need in that state, the secretary of agriculture, may make a review of the situation and upon their approval, in the issue of immigration vise certificates, preference shall next be given by the counsuls to skilled farmers and experienced farm laborers to meet such demand, subject to such regulations as will insure that they go to the specific locations where the demand exists.

Due to misfortunes resulting from the late war, there are large numbers of the very highest type of farmers in Northern Europe who are eager to avail themselves of the opportunities offered in this country. Investigation has proved conclusively the fitness of many of these for requirements of the cotton-producing states.

Dr. George A. Schmidt, who was director of agriculture in all the colonies of the old German imperial government, came to the Unoted States some time ago for the purpose of studying agricultural conditions in this section. He reported that conditions were entirely favorable from every standpoint, both as to the welfare of the foreigner and of the cotton-growing region.

It is the consensus of opinion that unless there is a new source of man power made available, the area of idle lands in the southern states will increase, bringing with the idleness not alone a loss of prosperity and growth, but likewise a dwindling in the great region's annual share of the cost of government. It is a serious fact that the lack of farm labor in southern communities is forcing land into idleness, with the result that such lands do not yield sufficiently to warrant the continued payment of taxes, and in some sections these lands are reverting to the states.

The Southern Alluvial Land Association, which has sponsored the proposed immigration plan, is authority for the following statistics:

"In 1923 cotton grown on 40,000,000 acres produced only 10,000,000 bales, where 10,000,000 bales should have been produced on 10,000,000 acres. This is a 300 per cent loss in capital investment, seed, feed and labor, and this loss is a yearly occurrence."

The association declares that "all prospective sources in this country for man-power have been inquired into, and it has been found impossible to secure an adequate supply of farmers or farm labor who will raise cotton and are fitted in all respects to become good citizens. In fact, after diligent inquiry and a long, careful study of this subject, we are convinced that the south cannot secure what she needs save through European immigrants. No other source of supply of suitable and desirable peoples is available."

We believe that the substantial, thrifty foreign-born farmer, accustomed to working with his hands, but now a victim of chaotic conditions brought by the war, would be materially benefited by removing to this section. The cotton-growing states need him, and the land owners are willing not only to help him reach this country, but to provide him with a farm of his own, to be paid for when the production of the land becomes profitable.

It is to the small farmer, cultivating the land himself, that the southern states must look in the future. The big plantations are becoming fewer in number, due to the constantly decreasing supply of farm labor.

In order, however, that the proposed immigration plan may bring the results desired, it would be necessary that the Simmons amendment be so construed as to give the secretaries of labor and agriculture power to permit resident land owners to extend financial aid to selective farm immigrants in reaching the points designated. Before passage of the bill it should be made clear that the clause in the amendment which reads, "subject to such regulations as will insure that they go to the specific locations where the demand exists," gives land owners the privilege of extending necessary aid.

Undoubtedly the farm is the best place to Americanize desirable immigrants. The environment of big cities and great industrial centers is not conducive to Americanization. Many respectable immigrants who come to America with the best intentions are converted into anarchists and other classes of undesirables by the contaminating influences of their own countrymen who have come here to make trouble rather than to work. If we select thrifty immigrants and give them opportunity to do those things for which they are fitted and trained, seeing to it that they are far removed from forward influences, the odds are that they will make their lives conform to the best there is in us, produce far more than they consume, and become a national asset instead of a liability.

The placing of a few desirable foreigners in each community will insure the coming of others of the same class as needed. The thrifty alien who finds conditions here to his liking will inform his less fortunate friends across the water of the fact, with the result that in time we shall be able to secure all the desirable foreign farm labor needed.

The drift to the cities then will not cause confusion, so far as farming interests are concerned, and the "back-to-the-farm" cry will be heard no more.

Agriculture — 1924.
Condition of.
Kentucky.

One-Crop Slavery.

(Louisville Courier-Journal.)

The farmer who has plunged, who has planted all his acreage in tobacco, only to be caught in a glutted and falling market when all he could realize for his crop was not enough to buy his children their winter shoes, doesn't need to be told about the good to be derived from the practice of diversified farming. He knows it, if he will not permit himself to forget and be led into excesses of one-crop planting by the dream of high prices and a big crop. His neighbors, who never have been caught with nothing but tobacco when that commodity was bringing a meager few cents a pound, may be able to learn the lesson through understanding and be saved the experience.

The farmer must not place all dependence on the co-operative marketing associations. As The Courier-Journal has pointed out innumerable times, co-operative marketing alone cannot solve every agricultural problem nor cure all the ills of farming. It certainly cannot overcome the evil effects of the one-crop system. Growers who increased their acreage after the co-operative made it possible for them to realize better prices acted unfairly. They cannot expect the co-operative to shoulder all the burden and perform the magic of getting top prices when there is a surplus of the weed.

J. W. Jones, field agent of the marketing department of the Kentucky College of Agriculture, pointing out that some farmers are now buying corn and hay to feed mules to use in growing another crop of tobacco, warns them that they will "owe the storekeeper or the banker all they get for the 1924 crop before it is in the barn." Like all other friends of the Kentucky tobacco planter, he urges more home-grown feed for man and beast and a system of farming which includes rotation of field crops and legumes, and the keeping of some live stock.

The point is made by Mr. Jones that when farmers increase their acreage they increase the tobacco surplus and thus delay the final settlement for the crop, while they complain because they have not received the third payment on the 1922 crop. He says further:

> The farmer's marketing problem is not solely to get the most out of what he has to sell; it is rather to buy less of those things he can produce on his farm and to make sales as often as he makes purchases. The low price of wheat would not hurt the northwest so much if it had less to buy and more of other things to sell. The same condition prevails one year with another in all one-crop sections. Times are hard because the farmers sell too little and spend too much for supplies . . . .
>
> An increasing number of farmers are finding five or six good dairy cows as profitable as their tobacco crop was on the average before they made the acquaintance of the dairy cow and the cream can. With manure from these cows they are able to make more and better tobacco on the same acreage. Moreover, you never hear such farmers knocking their tobacco association because times are hard, or because they have not received their third payment. They have something to sell every week, live on a cash basis and can get along for a long time without tobacco money.

The Kentucky Live Stock Improvement Association is doing a valuable work to promote diversification and help eliminate the one-crop system. By co-operating with the Kentucky Bankers' Association membership it is giving the tobacco farmer every opportunity to start with high-grade, purebred cattle, sheep and hogs and to emancipate himself from one-crop slavery.

Agriculture — 1924
Condition of.

Louisiana.

Five Hundred Dollars For Boll Weevil Cure

Special to The Argus.

NEW ORLEANS, La., Jan. 21.—The Hibernia Bank and Trust Co., of New Orleans, has offered five hundred dollars for the best suggestion for the control of the Boll Weevil.

The boll weevil is regarded as one of the worst plagues the South has to-day, in that wherever this pest makes its advent, there remains little chance for the successful production of cotton. 1-25-24

One of the causes of migration of the Negroes from the South has been attributed to effective work of the boll weevil, in making it almost impossible to produce cotton in many parts of the South.

Agriculture — 1924.
Condition of

Maryland.

COTTON PRODUCTION IN SOUTH AFRICA.

A REPORT to the Department of Commerce from Johannesburg shows that during 1922-23 the production of cotton in that region amounted to 4800 bales, and it is reported that the area at present under cultivation is approximately 20,000 acres. It is said that country is free today from two of the world cotton pests and that there are from three to four million acres of virgin land suitable for the production of cotton; "but the biggest factor is the lack of sufficient labor of the right kind." 4-3-24

That last statement has a direct bearing on the whole question of cotton production throughout the world. Labor of the right kind is not easily secured. It is not in sufficient quantity in any of the countries in which Europeans are trying to develop cotton growing, and it will be many long years before labor of the right kind can be made to produce an increase in cotton equal to the world's needs.

Manufacturer's Record
Baltimore, Md.

Agriculture — 1924
Condition of.

Michigan.

The Ebb Tide of Farm Population

In its issue of March 28, "Wallaces' Farmer" analyzes farm population in Iowa from 1885 to 1920. Three-fourths of Iowa's counties had from twenty to thirty per cent more people living on the farm in 1885 than they had in 1920. Of those counties which show an increase, a majority are in the northwest portion of the state. For the state as a whole, farm population in this period has decreased from 1,160,000 to 980,000. Town and city population jumped from 600,000 to 1,420,000 in the same period. However, these 980,000 farmers produce more than did the larger number in 1885. This is due to improved machinery and methods. With city products high-priced and farm products ruinously cheap, rural interests will be served, in the opinion of this journal, if two hundred and fifty thousand more people leave Iowa farms in the immediate future, though it is admitted that the exodus has profoundly affected local social institutions. From the standpoint of a longer future, a continuation of the exodus may mean grave national danger. The ex-farmers living in the cities will lose sympathy with the people living on the land. A ratio of three city people to every person on the farm would mean soaring food prices. Discontent in the cities would be great.

In this connection, it is important to note the progress of Henry Ford's plans to take the departments of his industry to the rural communities of Michigan, related in the second installment of his interview with Paul V. Kellogg, published in the April *Survey*. (The first part of this article was reviewed in the March 8 Service.) It apears that Mr. Ford is engaged in a very significant experiment which he hopes will enable the farmers in these Michigan communities to work regularly in factories and still maintain the farms at a point of efficiency. Mr. Ford sees the farmer a slave to a few animals. He proposes the centralization of these animals in large units, bringing about a division of labor which will give the farmer more free time. He proposes that these communities plant, cultivate and harvest by having large groups of factory workers use modern machinery and thus reduce farm work to about one month a year. That is his ideal. Thus far, however, he has made little progress toward it. Some farmers find $6 a day wages a better return than that of the farm, have rented their farms and chosen to do only factory work. The truck farmers only have found the Ford plan useful. There is as yet no large centralized barn for the farm animals of a community. But a few Michigan rural communities have for the past three years received about half of Mr. Ford's time, and during the next few years Mr. Ford may report more progress in his attempt to take manufacture to the rural community without destroying agriculture.

Agriculture—1924.
Condition of.

North Carolina.

CHARLOTTE, N. C. Observer

MAY 11 1924

A YEAR OF FRUITFUL BOUNTY.

This section of the country has now well passed the zone of frost danger and the prospect indicates a season of extraordinary activity in community and kitchen canneries, for there will be very much more fruit than the people can consume, or that communities can market, and this means a great surplus for the canning industry. It is to be a year of plenty in the orchard and along the hedges, for we must not forget the blackberry. The latter is a crop chiefly peddled by the colored people in this section. We can tell when the blackberry season is opened by the ringing of the door bell and usually at an hour to give the family early arousement. But in the far-flung region of the State of Wilkes, the blackberry is a commercial crop, as important as a revenue producer for the people of that section in its season, as tobacco is for the people of the sandhills. The Spring has been one of remarkable productivity of blossoming on tree and shrub, and in this direction there seems to have been a contest between the blackberry bush and the apple tree. The earliest manifestation of the prolific in blossoming was evidenced in the peach orchards and these came through the frost period unharmed to such an extent as to establish necessity for the bud-pinching process, for, with all the blossoms bearing fruit, the trees would have been destined to considerable damage by breakage of limbs.

From the sandhills this season is going to be shipped the largest peach crop on record. The same story applies to the apple crop in the mountains, where the blossoming was the limit in the prolific. The pear crop bids fair to prove correspondingly good, and there will be like abundance in plums and cherries and the smaller fruits. It is a fair outlook that unless the domestic and community canneries are able to meet their share of the contract, a great deal of the abundance with which this State is going to be blessed in the ripening season may be permitted to go to waste. But whatever may happen, the people are going to have all the fruit this season they are looking for.

Agriculture—1924.
Condition of.

North Carolina.

JAN 5 - 1924

GEORGIA NEGROES NOW ON FARM NEAR HICKORY

Fred A. Abernethy Plans to Grow Cotton on Large Scale.

HICKORY, Jan. 4.—Migration of negroes has extended to Hickory. Several families of cotton farmers from Georgia have come to Hickory to take charge of farms in this section and will plant large cotton crops in the spring. Fred A. Abernethy, live-stock dealer and owner, obtained the Georgia negroes to grow cotton for him. At prevailing prices, he estimates that he can make three times as much growing cotton as he can corn, and is ready to try it this year.

A. Alex Shuford, secretary-treasurer of the Shuford Mills, expressed the opinion today that cotton would remain around the 35-cent level, and ventured the suggestion that Catawba, Burke and Caldwell county farmers would do well financially by increasing their acreage. Mr. Shuford, like others who have studied the situation, believes production will be less in the Southern States this year, and that any deficiency must be made up in that part of the country where the weevil has done least damage.

It has been predicted that Catawba farmers would double their acreage, but it is now believed they will plant three times as much as they planted last season. The crop last year far larger than ever before.

Hickory banks and bankers express confidence in business conditions during the present year, although a president and congress are to be elected. In this immediate section much construction work is to be done, and the demand for labor will exceed the supply. The bad weather for the past few days has halted outdoor work hereabouts, but it was expected to be resumed at once.

Agriculture—1924
Condition of.

North Carolina.

Mooresville N.C.
Enterprise
FEB 21 1924

Negro College to Study Boll Weevil

Because of the effect of the boll weevil upon the negro farmers of the cotton growing section, the agricultural workers of the A. & T. College at Greensboro have set aside February 26 and 29 for a special program of study about the pest. Of these two days all the different classes at the College will make a special study of the life history and destructive habits of the weevil. Methods of poisoning the cotton to control the weevil and modern machinery for applying poison will be demonstrated. As now planned this special meeting will be so arranged that teachers in negro schools, negro local agents of the Agricultural Extension Service and farmers will attend. The A. & T. College is now forming special committees to work out a program for the two days and according to extension workers of the State College at Raleigh, the movement should help in disseminating information about the weevil among the negro farmers of the State.

Lime Part of Farm Each Year.

Agricultural leaders in North Carolina now believe that part of the farm should be limed each year. This belief is based not only on the good cause it forces the landowner following this practice to adopt a rotation of crops. The Agronomy Workers of the North Carolina Experiment Station state that where there is a fertile soil, there also is found a prosperous people, and where the soil is poor, the people are poor. A fertile soil is partially secured by growing and plowing under crops, such as legumes, to furnish nitrogen and organic matter. Lime helps in the growing of such crops and for this reason alone sometime in the near future lime will bandled at each railway station much as fertilizers are now handled. The time cannot come too soon because many farmers are now deterred from using the material on account of the difficulty of obtaining it.

Agriculture—1924.
Condition of.

South Carolina.

Greenville S.C.
Mar 31 1924

NEGROES EXODUS HURTING FARMERS

Acute Labor Conditions Face York, Chester And Fairfield Counties.

ROCK HILL, Mar. 30.—(Special.) Speaking of labor conditions on the farms of York County this Spring, County Agent L. W. Johnson reported today that a preliminary survey indicated that many planters are in acute need of negro labor. The scarcity of such labor is accounted for through the wholesale migration of the negro to Northern industrial centers. Those who predicted the return of the negro during the past Winter in large numbers appear to have been wrong in so far as this section is concerned, for few that left are reported to have come back this Spring to follow "Ole Beck" down a furrough.

While some farmers of the county have ample labor due to the fact that they kept their croppers and hands of last season, the problem in this section seems to be an individual one and not general by any means. Casual observations in this connection, Agent Johnson says tend to show that where the owner of the farm lives on the place himself, he has been better able to keep a sufficient supply of labor much more easily than have those farmers living in centers and renting out their plots.

District Agent McKeown said that while York County was suffering somewhat from the need of negro labor, farmers in Chester County, especially the lower sector, and of Fairfield County, were in a much acute labor condition. This, he judges, is a result of the heavier boll weevil ravages in the other two counties than in York County. Where the boll weevil made damaging invasions last season, the negro maved away in larger numbers, reports here indicate

Agriculture — 1924.
Condition of.

South Carolina. (St. Helena, Island.)

Negro Island Farmers Are Unique Community

St. Helena, Almost Solidly Black, is Outstanding Instance of Adaptation—Penn School Shows the Way. British Send Agents to Learn From Demonstration.

By Staff Correspondent.

St. Helena Island, Jan. 17.—Why is it that the British, with their long experience in administration among a diversity of races, are now sending their young men, destined for duty among negro populations in their African colonies, to this out of the way island of South Carolina, as a final training for their work?

Easily is the question answered by any one who has visited St. Helena. Here is to be seen in process, and in large part realized, an adjustment of the negro and his environment which is probably the most practical and rational anywhere worked out so far.

St. Helena's is in many aspects a special case. But the very factors which make it so render the demonstration here the more valuably significant, in relation to the problems these visiting Englishmen are to confront as missionaries and administrators.

Here is an island in Beaufort county, almost due south of Columbia, about equidistant from Charleston and Savannah, and separated from the countyseat by the mile and a quarter breadth of a tidal river and the four miles width of Ladies island.

No part of America has been longer out of aboriginal ownership and control. The island was through many generations the seat of a highly developed agriculture, but the Confederate war obliterated entirely the old plantation organization and St. Helena is today an almost solidly black community, has been so indeed since 1861.

Supporting some 7,478 souls, or more than one-third the population of the county, it contains fewer than 100 white persons, the proportion being approximately as 6,000 to 60. The white component, moreover, comprises few if any of the prewar planter families, but is made up primarily of a school group and secondarily of the local merchants and a few planters with their households and employees.

Nearly All Land Owners.

Nearly every negro family owns the land on and by which it lives and this is an exclusively rural and agricultural community, throughout its 18 miles of length and ten miles or so of breadth.

How this tenure was obtained is more or less a matter of controversy, concerning which it were profitless perhaps to inquire now and in any event the question is not pertinent to this correspondence. The negroes themselves are to be acquitted of responsibility for injustice that may have been practiced. The original owners were absent as refugees when the region passed from Confederate control by reason of the Hilton Head fiasco.

An official version, from the present direction of affairs on the island, is that "the Southern owners did not return to claim the land"—what a story is there, in that unreturning!—"and it was finally sold at tax sales, broken up into ten acre farms, which the negroes bought on easy terms, and later the original owners received the proceeds of the sale, less the taxes owed."

The fortune of war! but even yet that "proceeds less taxes" retains its sardonic humor. Whatever may underlie the transfer, what "old, unhappy far-off things," the transfer itself has long, long been a fait accomplished.

Attached to the Soil.

What is of present concern is that here is a great number of negro farm owners, in one compact, insular group, who for more than 60 years have continued true to their land; who have developed a deep tenacity for their holdings, evolved, under sagacious guidance, a system of life well adapted to their special conditions and operated for more than ten years a scheme of cooperative interest which is full of interest and promise.

Their status has progressively improved, in face of many discouragements, including severe visitations by hurricane, pestilence and crop disaster. St. Helena's black community, steadfast under trial and happily responsive to wise advice, has won through, intact if battered, withstanding even the total denial of its main money crop reliance, through the coming for keeps in 1918 of the cotton boll weevil. That final ordeal would seem to decree that St. Helena as a negro group deserves to survive.

Penn school is the answer to all questions of how and why touching St. Helena in the last 60 years; Penn Normal, Industrial and Agricultural school, at Frogmore, almost in the center of the island, geographically; quite certainly its heart and brain in every significant sense.

Story of Penn School.

Penn school has evolved from a small beginning through untold sacrifice and devotion, principally by two successive pairs of white gentlewomen. Though its two phases have differed in critical fundamentals, the success to which it has manifestly achieved—measuring success by adaptation to the local requirements and by the results obtained with the means and material at hand or available—has doubtless been due in no slight degree to the care taken by the management from the first to proceed cautiously and keep the work closely articulated with time and place and the practical factors.

Early in 1862, Miss Laura M. Towne and Miss Ellen Murray, Northern women of breeding and education, concerned over the plight of the bewildered negroes on the island, opened Penn school in two rooms of the vacant dwelling on the Oaks plantation, one of the properties before the war of the Grayson family. Later the school was removed to its present site or Corner plantation.

Always, in considering the history of Penn school, it is necessary to bear in mind certain facts which conditioned the possibilities. St. Helena had differed radically in organization from most other rich planting regions of the Carolina coast. Its characteristic crop was Sea island cotton, although rice, too, was grown rather extensively. The masters were relatively remote: they either lived elsewhere at all times, or were in residence for but a brief period in each year. The land was worked in large units, under overseers, some of them black, and "drivers" or foremen, the latter always negroes.

Nearly all the island slaves were therefore mere field hands—and it is to be remembered that the hoe was then almost the sole implement used on the Sea islands. St. Helena plantations did not typically maintain the complement of house and yard servants, artisans and other skilled and semi-skilled help appurtenant to the well found plantation on the main where the owner himself resided. St. Helena negroes in consequence had few contacts with either the whites or the members of their own race who had received special training. Many among them were also of relatively late importation from Africa.

School Aims Changed.

Some 40 years comprised the first phase of Penn school's history, during which its general type was academic, with gradual extensions into various lines of community service, as needs came to light and the humanity of the founders suggested.

Not quite 20 years ago, with the accession of new and young blood, the emphasis was shifted. Industrial and agricultural training was made paramount and community service was explicitly accepted as the school's main mission. Penn school took St. Helena as its parish, just as the whole extent of the Labrador littoral, with a slice of upper Newfoundland besides, became "Dr. Grenfell's Parish."

Nineteen years ago, Miss Rossa B. Cooley, a young Vassar graduate, daughter of a college professor, came to St. Helena, fresh from seven years of work at Hampton institute, the big school for negroes and Indians near Norfolk, Va.

With her came as assistant Miss Frances Butler of Arlington, Mass., who died, however, just a month later. This was Miss Cooley's tragic introduction to the health problem of the island, which was to engage her effort almost equally with her other duties for some years and which now is well solved, for the health record from very bad has become uncommonly good.

That winter Miss Butler's post was taken by Miss Grace Bigelow House and together for 19 years these gentlewomen of extraordinary abilities have labored with and for the islanders. Miss Cooley from the day of her arrival had in mind "plans for industrial training, many of which have since come true; agriculture, housekeeping for girls, trades to help a rural community hold its boys."

Now Well Equipped.

Some particularly interesting phases of Penn school and St. Helena history will be described in one or two subsequent articles. Space suffices just now only to sketch the present status of the work.

The school property now includes 276 acres of land, over 100 of which are raising a fine tree crop. The 77 acres under cultivation have been so improved that a best corn yield of 53 bushels the acre has been obtained and the average last year was 28 bushels, as compared with a general average for the state of 19 bushels. The 18 buildings are kept in repair by the carpentry classes. A handsome, well appointed community house, the principal need of school and island for years, is now building, the boys doing most of the work.

Reasonably equipped shops are maintained for carpentering and painting, joinery and cabinet making; blacksmithing and wheelwrighting, cobbling and harness making, native basketry. These shops are community facilities; their receipts from custom work run to more than $5,000 the year, although their function is primarily instructional.

School property was valued May 31 of 1922 (later figures are not in hand at this writing) at $106,332.80 and invested funds were $102,838.76, these making, with $7,639.72 cash and accounts receivable, an impressive total of assets: $216,811.28. Income in the fiscal year exceeded expenditures by $4,301.

Thirty-three persons comprised the salaried staff, five of them on part time. A full time demonstration agent, appointed by the federal department of agriculture, is the expert adviser to all the island farmers and supervises the many demonstration acres and the work of the various agricultural clubs. The school doctor and the school nurse serve all of St. Helena and do emergency work on other islands.

Funds for the school have come mostly from Northern well wishers, some of whom have been among its supporters from the early days. George Foster Peabody of New York is chairman of the board of trustees, James Edgar Gregg of Hampton, Va., is vice chairman, Lardner Howell of Philadelphia, treasurer, and Alfred Collins Maule of Bryn Mawr, Pa., secretary. Other members of the board are: Francis R. Cope, Jr., Dimock, Pa.; L. Hollingsworth Wood, New York; Frederick A. Eustis, Boston; Mark D. Batchelder, St. Helena island; Henry Wilder Foote, Cambridge, Mass.; Henry B. Van Sinderen, New York; Mrs. Alexander Purves, Hampton, Va.; Mrs. John F. Moors, Boston; Mrs. Paul J. Sachs, Cambridge, Mass.; Miss Ellen Morris, Philadelphia; Miss Isabella Curtiss, Boston.

Probably the farmers' cooperative society of longest continuous existence in South Carolina is that which the negro farmers of St. Helena maintain. Therein is a whole story to itself, especially as related to the change-over from cotton, enforced by the coming of the boll weevil.

(To Be Continued.)

McDAVID HORTON.

Tennessee.

Agriculture—1924.
Condition of.

Under the landlord system in vogue in the gulf states, each negro family is given five acres to cultivate. Seed is furnished and the necessary implements. House rent is free. Advances in money or supplies are made to tide over the cotton growing period.

The cotton return on five acres of ground, has averaged 183 pounds in the last three years, and that production has brought in $56.91.

The tenant pays back to the landlord the money advanced him, together with half the price of the fertilizer that was necessary to prepare the ground. It is estimated that the average net earnings of the tenant, after all the deductions are made, is $11.22.

Having the history of a year in the cotton district before him, the reader will think it strange that the negroes did not beg, borrow or steal rides to the north about four days after the invention of the landlord system.—

This editorial is one which has been floating through a chain of syndicate papers printed out of the cotton region. In the first place no negro family is given as little as five acres. Cotton return on five acres during the last three years, if land was fairly tilled, would be about $75 per acre.

Painesville Telegraph.

A few months ago The Commercial Appeal printed a series of tables taken from the farm books of Mr. J. M. Dockery. These tables were prepared by the late Isaiah Montgomery, one of the finest old colored men that ever lived.

He showed from this table that many of Mr. Dockery's tenants, year in and year out, after paying for their food and their clothing, had amounts coming to them running from $200 to $1,500.

Negro tenants mostly go up or down with their landlords. In good years they make good money. In poor years they do not. But their average of certainty of a living is greater than that of the land owner, himself. Negro farm workers and tenants in the south are better off than white farm workers and tenants in the north. Occasionally they are robbed, but occasionally labor of a similar character in the north is robbed. Selfishness and greed are monopolized by no one set of people.

Agriculture — 1924. Georgia.

Improvement on.

2 GEORGIA FARMERS WIN COTTON PRIZES

St. Matthews, S. C., January 1.—(Special)—When the American Cotton association inaugurated its southwide education campaign for boll weevil control, last spring $1,000 in cash prizes was set aside to be awarded and distributed to four farmers conducting a ten-acre cotton demonstration farm, who complied best with the specified terms of the contest, and produced the best results. The prizes were to be distributed to the successful contestants on the following basis of determination: First, greatest yield of lint cotton per acre on a ten-acre plot—30 points. Second, the best written account in diary form showing the system of culture and boll weevil control methods employed—30 points, and third, the best showing of profits on cost of production based on the commercial price of crop including both lint and seed—40 points.

Many Entered Contest.

Several hundred of the operators of ten-acre cotton demonstration farms, filed applications to enter this contest and obligated themselves to comply with the rules. They were representatives of nearly every cotton producing state in the south. A number of these farmers subsequently failed to furnish the necessary affidavits, or otherwise to fully comply with the terms of the contest and were eliminated by the judges in their selection of the winners.

The judges who constituted the committee to pass upon the reports and affidavits and to name the winners in the contest, were men of outstanding ability and reputation as leading practical farmers of Calhoun county, South Carolina, none of whom had any official connection whatever with the American Cotton association.

The Cotton News, the official publication of the American Coton association, will print the names of the winners, together with the diaries kept by them, upon which the awards were made.

The first prize of $500 was won by Mackye Smith, of Ridge Springs, S. C. The second prize was awarded to W. F. Justice, Turkey, N. C., the third to H. F. Fulbright, of Eastanollee, Ga., and the fourth to W. A. Denham, of Thomaston, Ga.

The successful contestants made a net profit of varying amounts per acre, none of which was much above or below $200. In aranging the cost of production a fixed amount of $100 for land rented was uniformly charged in each case by the committee. The cost of poison used in the boll weevil control on these demonstration farms was not charged in the item of cost, as the poison was furnished free to the contestants by the American Cotton association. However, the item of cost for poison used in each of the winning contests apears upon the books of the association itself and for public information is furnished the public by the editor of Cotton News.

Cost of Poison.

The cost of poison to Dr. Smith was $2.60 per acre; to Mr. Justice of $3.60 per acre; to Mr. Fulbright $4.65 per acre and to Mr. Denham $4.00 per acre. The differences in the prices of poisons used were due to the kind and quantity used on each farm for weevil control. The average cost of poison used on the full forty acres cultivated on the four winning demonstration farms amounted to $3.75 per acre.

Commenting upon the awards made, the Cotton News will say:

"The lesson to be learned by practical farmers from the publication of these demonstration reports confirms the oft repeated statement that a restricted acreage of cotton per plough, high fertilization, planting good seed, rapid culture and persistent application of poison for weevil control, will result in a successful and profitable yield of cotton, even under the most adverse weather conditions and heavy weevil infestation."

Attention is also called to the fact that no less than two of the prize winners from the state of Georgia, where the cotton crop generally this season was practically a failure.

Brooks Negro Raises Labor on His Farm And Is Big Success

Quitman, Ga., February 9.—(Special.)—Dempsey Wooten, well-known negro farmer of Brooks county, is one of the few farmers of this section who is not worried by labor problems. He says he raises everything on his farm that he needs, including labor and that 68 descendants answered the roll call last summer at the last reunion. They all cluster around the home place, Dempsey says, because they know rations are plentiful and they have no craving to go north. Dempsey owns his farm.

Last year he had 40 acres of cotton and made 14 bales. He made all the syrup his family needed and sold 46 barrels at $18 a barrel, 100 bushels of peanuts at $1.40 a bushel; 400 bushels of sweet potatoes at 60 cents a bushel; several hundred bushels of corn and 100 hogs for slaughter.

Dempsey says that none of his success is due to luck but is the result of hard work.

FEB 16 1924

The Right Kind Of Negro Farmer

Edna Cain Daniel in Quitman Free Press

Dempsey Wooten, a well known colored farmer, is one of the few in the county who is not troubled by the labor problem. He raises his labor at home; he and his wife have been blessed with a large family and Dempsey says there has been no trouble about keeping them at home.

"They seem to like to stay around where rations is plentiful," says Dempsey, "and the whole family has kinder settled around the farm. About once a year when the crops is laid by the old woman has a family re union and the last time the children and grand-children were gathered up we had sixty-two, I think it was."

Dempsey owns his farm and lives like one of the patriarchs of old, with his children around him. None of his tribe had wanted to go north, again due to that comfortable assurance of regular rations, Dempsey says. He doesn't think any of the colored farmers would want to migrate if they had this assurance of rations.

Dempsey had forty acres of cotton last season and he made fourteen heavy bales, on it. He said they had weevils and they fought them early and late. They plowed every week. They poisoned and they picked up squares.

He also had forty-six barrels of syrup to sell besides what the family needed and this brought $18 a barrel. He sold one hundred bushels of peanuts at $1 40 per bushel. He sold four hundred bushels of sweet potatoes at 60 cents. He said they had plenty of corn and would sell three or four hundred bushels. Last but not least, they fattened for meat, one hundred hogs.

Dempsey said he wanted it distinctly understood that none of these crops were the result of "luck." He doesn't believe much in luck in farming. It was mostly hard work and grim determination. The Wooten forces were marshalled in the early dawn and led to the fields and they worked late. He said his folks did not swell the Saturday crowds on the streets; he did not consider Saturday a good day to do business in town and he never came to town except on business so he came some other day. He thought, too, the habit of coming to town and standing around talking half a day was not exactly the earmark of industry; Sunday is the day of rest and one day out of seven provides ample time for social visiting. Of course there are a few high days, like the closing of school and the Sunday school picnic when a holiday is in order. Dempsey just did not think he could have made quite as much or done quite as well last year if he and his folks had neglected their crops to come to town a half day or so every week.

Dempsey Wooten, a colored farmer down in Brooks county, has no thought of going north. Wooten owns his own farm and lives at home. Last year he made 14 bales of cotton on a small acreage. He did it by plowing it every week, picking up the punctured squares and poisoning according to approved methods. He made all the syrup his family needed and sold 46 barrels at $18 per barrel. He made 400 bushels of corn and killed 100 head of hogs. He sold $140 worth peanuts and 400 bushels of potatoes at 60c per bushel. Wooten says this result was not due to luck but to work and proper management. There ought to be more Dempsey Wootens. There ought to be several hundred of them in Worth county. Anybody can do what Dempsey Wooten did last year. The secret of his success may be attributed to two outstanding things—Diversified crops and hard work. Let us hope that the Dempsey Wooten tribe will greatly increase in Georgia this year.

FEB 3 - 1924

Negroes Can Successfully Fight The Boll Weevil

Interesting Experiments by Armour Fertilizer Company in Georgia.

(Atlanta Special in Manufacturers' Record.)

One of the principal arguments advanced by the pessimist against the use of calcium arsenate in dusting for the boll weevil is that the negro tenant and share cropper does not know how to dust, cannot dust and will not dust as directed.

Consequently he cannot fight the boll weevil and all of the government's well-meant advice and suggestions have gone to "bloogy."

All of which is important, if true.

But Dr. R. J. H. DeLoach, chief of the research department for the Armour Fertilizer company, has just completed some experiments on Arlington farms, owned by the Armour company, which indicates that it isn't so.

Indeed, out of 78 negro laborers on Arlington farm, 42 are share croppers, which will give some idea of the number of negroes on the farms. The Armour company left the entire farm virtually in the hands of negro tenants just to see if they could be induced to grow cotton under modern methods.

To begin with, the company took the attitude toward its share croppers and colored tenants that any sensible landlord ought to take. It gave the orders and the tenants and share croppers either had to follow them

get out.

That was the first step in the program.

It specified that only certain varieties of cotton could be planted and supplied the tenants and share croppers only with those varieties.

Fertilizer Used.

It demanded that at least 500 pounds of a 10-4-5 fertilizer be used to the acre, put in before the cotton was planted to give it a good start, and furnished that fertilizer.

It saw to it that the cotton was planted on time and was given the right sort of cultivation when up.

It secured a calcium arsenate duster for each tenant and taught him how to use it before the actual time came for dusting. Then it gave each tenant a sufficient supply of arsenate to last him through the season.

It ordered each tenant and share cropper to dust four times that season, beginning when his plant only had four leaves, and continuing so long as there was any chance of holding the weevil in check.

It made every tenant pick up the squares for fifteen or twenty days after the cotton blooms had begun to open.

And it demanded that the tenants and croppers turn under their cotton stalks as soon as the crop was gathered in.

Sure they did. Some of them grumbled a little at this constant oversight, but you don't hear them grumbling now. For they have made the best crops of cotton in the entire section and have money in the bank and cotton in the warehouse, where other farmers have only memories of "what might have been."

For the rigid directions that Dr. DeLoach and his farm managers laid down resulted in a record crop of cotton from the Arlington farms. Out of the 42 share croppers all but three came out clear this year, and the other three would have been in the clear, too, if they had gotten out of jail in time.

But the point is that the negro tenant and share cropper can fight the weevil successfully if he is properly managed and given the proper directions and weapons to fight with.

It is no lazy man's job, however.

Vigilance Required.

It requires constant vigilance, constant help, constant prodding and insistence upon the details that go to bring about success in the fight against the boll weevil.

But it can be done.

It has been done this year at Arlington farms and it can be done again at any place and any time when the owner of a plantation will quit crying and go to work.

As Dr. DeLoach says, the way to fight the weevil successfully is to teach your tenants how to fight, stay on the job and help them carry on the fight, and then, when the fight is won, let them share some of your prosperity.

It won't take more than a couple of seasons for the tenant and share cropper to realize the fact that he won because he followed directions, and then it is going to be easier and easier each year.

As for the negro being unable or unwilling to fight the weevil, that, according to Dr. DeLoach, is all wrong. He may be too scared to fight him. He may be too ignorant to fight him. But if you will show him how and help him, he'll do his part in the performance.

The only man who doesn't get anywhere is the man who is too lazy to put up a real fight.

Both Hands Gone, Negro Man Makes Success of Life

BY RALPH T. JONES.

The man who measures up to the full standard of manhood is the one who can tackle the game of life under the worst handicaps, win out, and smile over it all. This type of man knows no distinction of position, of job, of creed or of race.

One of these hooded characters has been found in the person of a Wilkes county negro, and his story is told by R. O. Barksdale, of Washington, Ga., former member of the general assembly from that county.

This negro lost both his hands, some years ago, in a premature dynamite blast. "But," writes Mr. Barksdale, "with that handicap he makes a good living for himself and family."

The letter from Mr. Barksdale, an application from the colored man for an automobile license tag, came to the office of Secretary of State S. Guyt McLendon. In his letter, Mr. Barksdale continues:

"He owns a small farm, is very industrious and his credit is fine. Though he cannot do much work himself, he has two sons who do the work under his direction.

"He has had several years the car for which he applies for a tag, but it has not been run since March 1, as he was not prepared to pay for the 1924 tag until now.

"I made out the application for him and witnessed his signature. Even without hands (he has two hooks on each stub of his arms, he can drive the car himself."

Some handicap. No hands. But the colored citizen of Wilkes county is making good in life, anyway.

Dawson, Ga. News
JUN 17 1924

MONROE COUNTY NEGRO SHOWS WHAT HE CAN DO

FORSYTH.—Herbert Smith, a negro farmer of this county, who operates a two-horse farm near Culloden, has sold since March 15 produce as follows: Sweet potatoes, $117.95; corn, $110.50; sugar cane syrup, $40.45; corn meal, $54.55; total $323.44. Smith still has on hand several hundred pounds of fodder, cotton seed, some corn, meat, syrup, a good calf and six pigs that are real pigs. His prospects for a crop this year are as good as any man's in the county. His cotton is in good condition and promising.

Agriculture — 1924.
Improvement of.

Kansas.

A Kansas Negro Who Makes $6,000 on 12 Acres

Twelve acres may not seem much a farm for Kansas, but that much and has done pretty well for me. The cash receipts from it last year were slightly more than $6,000. It has not only supported a large family and has also provided for my old age, but has also provided a university education for my six children.

For twenty years before coming here I worked for railroads, beginning when fifteen as a messenger boy. During all those years I saved no money, nor did it seem that as a railway employee I ever would. In order to better my position I needed a union card. Negroes, however, were ineligible. Consequently I decided to get into business for myself. I saw a good many vacant lots around Lawrence, and it occurred to me that I could farm them. I went at it. That was twenty-five years ago.

What success I have had has been frought with a lot of hard work. I think, however, it is due as much to the attention I have given to selling my produce as to growing it.

When I began here, besides having no money and very little education, I knew absolutely nothing about truck-gardening. Hoping to get some suggestions, I went to see some of the local men in the business. But from them I got a cold shoulder; they didn't want another man sharing their trade. They couldn't prevent me from seeing their mistakes, however, and I went ahead determined to profit by them and by experience.

Now, while I had had very little schooling, a good deal of my railway experience was in offices, and this led me to pay more attention to the business side of gardening than the other fellows were doing. I soon saw, for example, that they were not catering to their market as they should in order to get the best results. They weren't supplying their customers with the right stuff, in the right quantities, at the right time. As a result, the merchants would buy part of their stuff from out-of-town growers, after which the local gardeners would have difficulty in recovering their trade.

My aim is to supply everything the truck market demands, even if I lose money on some of my products. The return for the sweet corn and cauliflower that I raise, for example, is less than the cost of production. Irish potatoes also gives me little profit, though I raise a few for the very early market. But I supply these products because they help me to maintain my trade. I have found that if I can supply all the garden truck a merchant needs he will continue to buy of me, and of nobody else, year after year.

Cabbage, tomatoes and cucumbers are my specialties. Early cabbage is the best money-maker of all, and this is mainly because I get it on the market very early, usually before any is shipped in. Next to cabbage, my most profitable crop is early tomatoes.

Practically all of my stuff is sold to the local stores, to which I make daily deliveries. I have never made any effort to develop a retail trade. Probably that could be made into a considerable business of itself, if I had the time to devote to it. As it is, I am often kept busy evenings and holidays waiting on people who drive out here for fresh vegetables.

The lots on which I began comprise about six acres. For several years I rented the land, and then bought it; the rest of my land, which was purchased later, is a separate piece just out of town. The buildings on the original place were poor, but I did not let that fact bother me. I knew that whatever success I had would depend on other things than the quality of the house and barn. About four and one-half acres are watered by an irrigation system. For lack of funds I was a long time getting this. With it I can raise two to four crops a year on the same ground. It helps me to have a continuous flow of products to my market. From this land I obtain considerably more than from my other eight acres. Last year its products brought $4,500, or $1,000 an acre.

Of all that the little place has done for me and my family I think I most appreciate the fact that my children have been educated. I have four boys and two girls, and all have been graduated from the University of Kansas. One of the boys is now a practising physician, while another is a pharmacist. Sumner, the youngest, is working into the business here with me, and will carry on what I have started.

Opportunity Never Knocked at His Door

Handicapped by being a Negro, and by lack of education, Riley Rogers found himself at thirty-five with a family and no prospects of advancement.

Now he is sixty. He owns just 12 acres, but his income is $6,000 a year—$500 an acre! His four sons and two daughters are graduates of the Kansas State University.

Opportunity never knocked at his door. Rogers had to go find his oportunity. He tells here how selling to suit his market as well as producing to suit his soil brought success.—The Editor

$6,000 A YEAR INCOME FROM 12 ACRES

Kansas Black Man Tells How He Makes Each Acre Yield $500

BY RILEY ROGERS
of Lawrence, Kansas
In an Interview with Frank M. Chase
of Farm and Fireside

TWELVE acres may not seem much of a farm for Kansas, but that much land has done pretty well for me. The cash receipts from it last year were slightly more than $6,000. It has not only supported a large family and provided for my old age, but has also provided a university education for my six children.

For twenty years before coming here I worked for railroads, beginning when fifteen as a messenger boy. During all those years I saved no money nor did it seem that as a railway employee I ever would. In order to better my position I needed a union card. Negroes, however, were ineligible. Consequently I decided to get into business for myself. I saw a good many vacant lots around Lawrence, and it occurred to me that I could farm them. I went at it. That was twenty-five years ago.

What success I have had has been bought with a lot of hard work. I think, however, it is due as much to the attention I have given to *selling* my produce as to growing it.

When I began here, besides having no money and very little education, I knew absolutely nothing about truck-gardening. Hoping to get some suggestions, I went to see some of the local men in the business. But from them I got a cold shoulder; they didn't want another man sharing in their trade. They couldn't prevent me from seeing their mistakes, however, and I went ahead determined to profit by them and by experience.

Now, while I had had very little schooling, a good deal of my railway experience was in offices, and this led me to pay more attention to the business side of gardening than the other fellows were doing. I soon saw, for example, that they were not catering to their market as they should in order to get the best results. They weren't supplying their customers with the right stuff, in the right quantities, at the right time. As a result, the merchants would buy part of their stuff from out-of-town growers, after which the local gardeners would have difficulty in recovering their trade.

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SPRINGFIELD MO REPUBLICAN
MARCH 5, 1924

A Negro Philanthropist.

Henry P. Ewing, the Negro "potato king" of Warring, Kas., is setting a most commendable example to the people of his race. His recent action in feeding 200 Negro orphans was only another item in a long list of kindly deeds which are to his credit.

Ewing has made a phenomenal success of growing potatoes and comes rightly by his title by which he is so widely known. But he shares in a large measure his material prosperity with the needy of his own race.

Not only does he carry on many philanthropic enterprises, but he is constantly giving his people the benefit of his experience and his example. He is an honor to his race and has the respect and confidence of his own race and the good will of a great many white friends who are familiar with his record.—Kansas City Journal.

Agriculture - 1924.
Improvement of.

Kansas.

MR. ROBERT TURNER A SUCCESSFUL FARMER

We wish to call our readers attention to one of Kansas's most successful market gardeners, Mr. Robert Turner on the north side. He was for years the leader on most everything grown on a truck farm and had no equal. He was the first on the market every year with the finest and most choice products. He now specializes in one or two products on a large scale. Asparagus which he hauls into market by the truck loads, and ships out cucumbers and tomatoes by the truck load. He is an upright christian gentleman and as honest as the days are long. He is a widower and the father of three boys and two girls. His wife died several years ago and he seems to be very lonesome at times. We believe if the right lady would show up she would find a fine prospect in him. He is kind and generous and plainstaken. He owns several fine Kaw Valley truck lands and an upland farm with lots of fruit on it. He is in much need of a real good helpmate one who would like to live in the country and raise chickens and make love to her husband and keep peace in the family.

Agriculture—1924
Improvement of.

Alabama.

ALABAMA PLANTER SOLVES A TENANT-FARMING PROBLEM

A serious problem associated with the tenant-farming system, that of maintaining soil fertility, is being solved by a Bullock county, Ala., planter in a way which is proving satisfactory to him and his tenants. Some years ago, through a visit to the county made by the movable school which is a feature of Alabama's extension work with negro farmers, this planter, T. R. Martin, became convinced that conditions on his plantation would be improved by having the tenant boys and girls given some of the practical training in farm practices which the extension service affords, in order to help carry out a plan for more diversified farming. He is, accordingly, paying the expenses of two of the tenant children in attending the extension short course at Tuskegee Institute, each summer. Another feature of his plan was extending his tenants sufficient credit to become part owners of a small dairy herd, some purebred pigs, and a flock of stanlard bred chickens. These are to be increased with the tenants' ability to feed and care for them. Tenants and owner share, also, in the proceeds of a small fruit and nut orchard which has been established, as well as in the regular farm crops.

The results of this plan are apparent in the well-kept appearance of the plantation and the flourishing crops in the fields. All of the tenants' indebtedness has been paid, according to reports to the United States Department of Agriculture ,and both tenants and land owner are receiving a comfortable living and fair profit from a plantation steadily improving in soil fertility and productiveness.

ALA. LANDLORD HAS NEW TENANT SYSTEM; SENDS 2 TO TUSKEGEE EACH YEAR

By The Associated Press.

Tuskegee, Ala., August 19.—A serious problem associated with the tenant-farming system, that of maintaining soil fertility, is being solved by a Bullock County, Ala., planter in a way which is proving satisfactory to him and to his tenants.

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He is, accordingly, paying the expenses of two of the tenant children in attending the extension short course at Tuskegee Institute each summer. Another feature of his plan was extending to his tenants, sufficient credit to become owners of a small dairy herd, some pure-bred pigs and a flock of standard-bred chickens. These are to be increased with the tenants' ability to feed and care for them. Tenants and owner share also in the proceeds of a small fruit and nut orchard which has been established, as well as in the regular farm crops.

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Agriculture—1924.
Improvement of.

Mississippi.

TALKS TO NEGROES.

Prof. Williamson Speaks of the Evil of Immoral Life.

ASTABUTCHIE, Miss., Aug. 18.—Prof. C. M. Williamson, president of the National Rural Industrial Association, spoke to a large crowd of enthusiastic negroes at this place last night. The negroes were coming in before night from all directions. They were so much pleased at the advice given them, that they asked Williamson to return at an early date. A few white people attended the speaking and were much pleased with the speech.

Williamson was very plain in speaking to the negroes. He scolded them for their life and said that the race could not succeed with the immoral life they were living.

He said that in many homes he went, he could not find the father of many of the children and 75 per cent of the children of his people are feeble minded, caused largely from the life his people live.

He told the white people that it was up to them to satisfy the negroes; that they could be made satisfied and become a useful people with proper treatment. He said it was not giving his people a square deal to look after the material advancement of his people and pay no attention to the moral advancement. He said that the Lord was not pleased with the white people to build gambling dens and places of vice and allow the negroes to live as brutes.

He urged the white people to help him to change conditions for his people, that unless conditions changed that the negroes would become more restless and they would go with greater rapidity in the near future.

8-19-24

Negro Sells First Bale.

Purvis, Miss., July 29.—The first bale of cotton to reach this market was bought of Charlie Peterson, a negro farming near Hub, by W. E. Magee Company this morning. The bale weighed 483 pounds and brought 30 cents. Cotton is opening in many fields near here and picking is begun. The complaint is that much of the open cotton has immature seed. The drouth continues and both corn and cotton are suffering from the effects of drouth.

7-30-24

Both cotton gins have been purchased by I. H. Brown of Ellisville, and the operation of the plant of the Purvis Gin Company will be discontinued and the ginning carried on at the J. A. Bennett gin.

Agriculture—1924
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General.

KIND OF FARMING THAT PAYS.

A few weeks ago we reproduced the story of Riley Rogers of Lawrence, Kansas, from Farm and Fireside, in which it was told how this Negro farmer makes $6,000 a year from tilling twelve acres of ground. Not only has his farm supported a large family and provided for the owner's old age, but it has furnished a university education for the farmer's six children. Mr. Riley attributed his success to the fact that he paid more attention to the business side of market gardening than others were doing. His aim was to supply everything the truck market demands, even if he lost money on some of his products. The result was that he could supply all the garden truck any merchant needed, which ensured his continued trade, year after year.

This story enlisted the attention of Mr. Charles E. Hall of the Census Bureau, who found it very interesting, as showing the possibilities of truck farming, especially in localities where transportation facilities are good and markets are not too remote. He made special reference to the States of New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland.

The importance of this suggestion is emphasized by the statement made in an Associated Press dispatch from San Francisco to the effect that the Japanese farmers, forbidden by California law to own or lease agricultural lands or to work them on a crop sharing basis, are turning toward centers of population in the East and Middle West. Since the United States Supreme Court has upheld the California alien land law, the Japanese have sent representatives to survey the situation in the Eastern States. They have reported that many of the 30,000 Japanese, affected by the California law, could find profitable employment as truck gardeners in districts adjacent to the large cities. The result of such a movement would be to put many of the white and colored truck farmers in the East out of business.

According to Mr. Hall, who is an authority on the subject, a few of the colored truck farmers in New Jersey are very energetic and prosperous. He cited the following examples of successful farming:

> I know of one who on twenty acres raised 25,000 boxes of spinach, sold it for 50 cents per box and cleaned up $12,500. This beats your Kansas man. I know another one near Chicago who has *two* acres, partly under glass. He raised 7,000 dozen cucumbers for which he received $4,000, and 27,000 boxes of lettuce that brought another $4,000, or a total of $8,000 on two acres. I also know another man who grew mushrooms on a *lot*, 102 by 125 feet. He produced 2,500 pounds worth $1,800. My point is that one does not need to go to far away Kansas to do truck farming. Of the 531 Negro farmers who operate 25,968 acres in New Jersey, 284 of them *own* 8,963 acres, and with the New York, Philadelphia, Jersey City, Newark and Camden markets, in addition to the summer resorts, they are in a splendid position to almost monopolize the truck market.

The conclusion is obvious that there is still a profitable return to be gained from farming, if one raises the right kind of produce and keeps in touch with a ready market. Industry, energy and business intelligence are necessary in farming, as in any other kind of business to bring results. With these qualities the Eastern truck farmers may not only hold their own against Japanese competition, but develop a larger market for home products. Another phase of this situation, recently pointed out by the California Eagle of Los Angeles, is the fact that the Negro farmer from other sections, now drifting into Los Angeles, "is the natural successor to the Japanese as the truck garden king of the land."

The possibilities shown by individual farmers of the race, both East and West, warrants this belief. Let them stick to the kind of farming that pays and success is theirs.

Truck-Farming In East Offers Fine Opening For Negro Agriculturalists

Lucrative Crops Raised on Small Areas Near Large Population Centers—Threatened Jap Invasion of East as Result of California's Anti-Alien Land Laws.

Truck farming possibilities in New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland, in easy reach of markets, are being considered with increasing interest because of the opportunities offered the Negro trucker.

The story of Riley Rogers of Lawrence, Kan., told in Farm & Fireside, and reproduced in The Age of January 26, showing that this colored farmer had made $6,000 a year on twelve acres, is paralleled by several well authenticated instances of other men of the race who have achieved success as truck farmers.

One of the most successful operates a New Jersey farm of twenty acres. On this place he raised 25,000 boxes of spinach, which he sold at 50 cents a box, the crop bringing in $12,500.

Another, living near Chicago, ha two acres. He raised 7,000 dozen cucumbers and 27,000 boxes of lettuce. He received $4,000 for the cucumbers and a like sum for the lettuce, a total of $8,000 on Two acres.

Then there is the experience of a man who grew mushrooms. He had only a lot, 102 by 125 feet, and he produced 2,500 pounds of mushrooms worth $1,800.

Influx of Jobs Imminent.

Census reports show that in New Jersey there are 531 Negro farmers operating 25,968 acres, and of this number, 284 own 8,963 acres. These men are in easy contact with the large markets of New York, Philadelphia, Jersey City, Newark and Camden, besides the various reosrts of the region.

Attention is called to a recent development that indicates a necessity for prompt action by other Negro farmers woh want to take advantage of this fine opportunity. Advice from California are to the effect that the anti-alien law of that state, forbidding Japanese farmers to own or lease agricultural lands, or to work them on a crop-sharing basis, has caused these foreigners to turn toward eastern and midwesetrn centers. More than 30,000 Japanese, who have been employed on California lands, are affected, and the Japanese Chamber of Commerce in San Francisco has sent representatives East to survey the situation.

In these districts the Japanese can buy or lease lands without restriction, and there is every probability that there will be an immediatte influx of the little yellow men from the Pacific Coast to the truck garden districts surrounding the large cities in New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland.

Negro truck farmers, by prompt action, can fix themselves firmly and provide for a profitable future that will be lost to them if the Japanese or others preempt the land.

Negroes Can Successfully Fight The Boll Weevil

Interesting Experiments by Armour Fertilizer Company in Georgia.

(Atlanta Special in Manufacturers Record.)

One of the principal arguments advanced by the pessimist against the use of calcium arsenate in dusting for the boll weevil is that the negro tenant and share cropper does not know how to dust, cannot dust and will not dust as directed.

Consequently, he cannot fight the boll weevil and all of the government's well-meant advice and suggestions have gone to "blooey."

All of which is important, if true.

But Dr. R. J. H. DeLoach, chief of the research department for the Armour Fertilizer company, has just completed some experiments on Arlington farms, owned by the Armour company, which indicates that it isn't so.

Indeed, out of 78 negro laborers on Arlington farm, 42 are share croppers, which will give some idea of the number of negroes on the farms. The Armour company left the entire farm virtually in the hands of negro tenants just to see if they could be induced to grow cotton under modern methods.

To begin with, the company took the attitude toward its share croppers and colored tenants that any sensible landlord ought to take. It gave the orders and the tenants and share croppers either had to follow them or get out.

That was the first step in the program.

It specified that only certain varieties of cotton could be planted and supplied the tenants and share croppers only with those varieties.

Fertilizer Used.

It demanded that at least 500 pounds of a 10-4-5 fertilizer be used to the acre, put in before the cotton was planted to give it a good start, and furnished that fertilizer.

It saw to it that the cotton was planted on time and was given the right sort of cultivation when up.

It secured a calcium arsenate duster for each tenant and taught him how to use it before the actual time came for dusting. Then it gave each tenant a sufficient supply of arsenate to last him through the season.

It ordered each tenant and share cropper to dust four times that season, beginning when his plant only had four leaves, and continuing so long as there was any chance of holding the weevil in check.

It made every tenant pick up the squares for fifteen or twenty days after the cotton blooms had begun to open.

And it demanded that the tenants and croppers turn under their cotton stalks as soon as the crop was gathered in.

Sure they did. Some of them grumbled a little at this constant oversight, but you don't hear them grumbling now. For they have made the best crops of cotton in the entire section and have money in the bank and cotton in the warehouse, where other farmers have only memories of "what might have been."

For the rigid directions that Dr. DeLoach and his farm managers laid down resulted in a record crop of cotton from the Arlington farms. Out of the 42 share croppers all but three came out clear this year, and the other three would have been in the clear, too, if they had gotten out of jail in time.

But the point is that the negro tenant and share cropper can fight the weevil successfully if he is properly managed and given the proper directions and weapons to fight with.

It is no lazy man's job, however.

Vigilance Required.

It requires constant vigilance, constant help, constant prodding and insistence upon the details that go to bring about success in the fight against the boll weevil.

But it can be done.

It has been done this year at Arlington farms and it can be done again at any place and any time when the owner of a plantation will quit crying and go to work.

As Dr. DeLoach says, the way to fight the weevil successfully is to teach your tenants how to fight, stay on the job and help them carry on the fight, and then, when the fight is won, let them share some of your prosperity.

It won't take more than a couple of seasons for the tenant and share cropper to realize the fact that he won because he followed directions, and then it is going to be easier and easier each year.

As for the negro being unable or unwilling to fight the weevil, that, according to Dr. DeLoach, is all wrong. He may be too scared to fight him. He may be too ignorant to fight him. But if you will show him how and help him, he'll do his part in the performance.

The only man who doesn't get anywhere is the man who is too lazy to put up a real fight.

Negro Tenant Dairying in the Cotton Belt

THE cotton planter has frequently stated that no other line of farm production could be made to fit in with cotton growing. For the man in that state of mind, it is undoubtedly true that cotton farming will not mix with other crops or other lines of farming. But the boll weevil has changed the minds of a large number of cotton farmers in the Middle Southern States, and when they have once changed their minds, then other lines of production at once become practicable.

For instance, dairying or livestock production of any sort has been especially objectionable to the typical cotton planter. Convinced in his own mind that dairying and cotton farming could not be made to fit into the needs of each other on a Southern farm, he has not found dairying practicable.

But, as stated, the boll weevil has persuaded some farmers that the dairy cow and cotton farming are not entirely antagonistic. Not only can dairying be made satisfactory, but dairying by Negro tenants has proved satisfactory. And strange as it may seem to some cotton planters, the acreage planted to cotton on many Negro tenant dairy farms has not been reduced much more than would have been forced by the boll weevils alone.

Mr. E. R. Lloyd, director of the Farm Development Bureau of the Memphis, Tennessee, Chamber of Commerce, reports the following instances of satisfactory Negro tenant dairying in one county (Oktibbeha) in Mississippi, in the heart of the Cotton Belt.

The following is a partial list of landowners who have found Negro tenant dairy farming satisfactory, as reported by Director Lloyd:—

Mr. James Ward has a twenty-five-cow dairy run by a Negro tenant on a fifty-fifty basis. He says the system is satisfactory, as both are making money. He expects to add another dairy next spring.

Mr. W. H. Sudduth has a twenty-five-cow dairy run by a Negro tenant. Both are making money, and Mr. Sudduth expects to add another dairy.

Mr. John White has four dairies, all run by Negro tenants on the share basis, each milking from thirty to forty cows. The system is working satisfactorily and profitably.

Mr. T. G. James has a twenty-five-cow dairy run by a Negro tenant and both are satisfied.

Mr. F. L. Hogan has five dairies run with Negro tenants and expects to add three more in the spring. These Negroes are milking from thirty to thirty-five cows on each of these farms.

Mr. E. R. Lloyd has a forty-cow dairy run by a Negro tenant that has been in operation for five years. It is making money and both tenant and owner are satisfied.

Director Lloyd adds this comment: "I believe this method of farming will not only build the country rapidly, but will also go a long way in solving our labor problem."

Many Negroes will leave the South when they can get so much better wages in the North. The Southern farmer cannot afford to pay the Negroes more unless he can make them earn more. Combining dairying with cotton production is one means by which the Negroes can earn more money. Many Southern farmers are now proving that this is true. It was just as true years ago, when we began advocating it, but it took the boll weevil to bring about the state of mind necessary to give it a fair trial.

The Progressive Farmer

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Agriculture—1924.
To Improvement of.

Mississippi.

What Can Be Done By Colored Men in the Delta

Mound Bayou, Miss., Jan. 22, 1924.

To The Commercial Appeal:

On last Thanksgiving I delivered an address dealing with conditions generally in the delta section and the state at large; labor, migration, necessary remedies and the great possibilities of the future, etc. Said paper was sent to a number of prominent parties, and a few responses have been received, namely from Hon. J. S. Sexton, a member of the Constitutional Convention of 1890; Mr. C. H. Markham, president of the Illinois Central and Y. & M. V. railroads; Mr. J. M. McBroom of Rosedale, Miss.; Hon. Walter B. Parks of Merigold, Miss.; The Outlook of New York; Hon. Geo. R. James of the Federal Reserve Board; Mr. W. E. Johnson, manager of the Jackson Daily News; The United States Department of Agriculture under Secretary Wallace, and from Mr. Will Dockery of Dockery, Miss., who is well known as one of the large delta farmers.

This last letter so clearly illustrates the possibilities of this section and what may be accomplished by proper and wholesome management, that I am taking the liberty to quote from it largely, and hope that you may be able to allow space for it in your valued paper.

Mr. Dockery sent me, for my inspection, a list of his tenants on two 300-acre plantations showing amounts paid them in 1923:

	First Settlement	Second Settlement	Total
Joe Staples	$2,335.94	$1,899.10	$4,235.04
Claude McAfee	328.25	101.90	430.15
C. H. McAfee	263.68	222.80	486.48
West Hughes	99.68	391.30	491.10
Cleve Dorris	37.35	84.05	121.40
Willie Williams	365.93	365.55	731.48
Al Black	1.30	159.70	161.00
Al Davis	399.00	240.75	739.75
Mary Skinner	55.60		55.60
Percy Faulkner	107.05	67.55	174.60
George Hemphill	187.55	306.95	494.60
Jamigan Leonard		69.75	69.75
W. C. Shelby		124.75	124.75
H. Y. Campbell		188.87	188.87
Total first 300 acres	$4,181.45	$4,223.02	$8,504.49

SECOND 300 ACRES.

	First Settlement	Second Settlement	Total
John Staples	$2,734.70	241.75	623.95
Alex Crockett	382.20	242.15	788.50
Bill Williams	546.05		403.50
Festus Levy	403.50	93.25	93.25
Sam Levy		164.65	256.20
Evans Page	91.55	158.95	352.60
Geo. Page	193.65	68.80	363.50
Sanders Smith	294.70	86.05	1,056.70
Isaac Daniel	970.65	1,046.90	1,517.77
Will Elam	470.87	275.30	483.73
Wm. Murray	208.43	153.40	460.10
K. C. Boss	306.70	404.80	924.20
Jessie Hester	579.40	44.68	44.68
Sam Elam		318.55	398.30
Willie Hester	79.75	380.65	664.92
Berge Staples	284.27		
Total for second 300 acres	$7,486.42	$5,888.10	$13,374.52

There was also a third settlement involving some $6,000 paid out. Mr. Dockery's managers are not gunmen, and he has not changed them in 15 years. He has one place of 3,000 acres, 1,600 in cultivation, situated some 10 miles east of Mound Bayou, which has not had a manager in 20 years. He tells the tenants that if they make moonshine whisky and operate a rowdy place he will send up a manager, but has never found it necessary to do so yet. He had one tenant that made 17 bales with one mule. He gives results of six contestants for prizes based on greatest amount of cotton raised per acre. First, 550 pounds; second, 385 pounds; third, 385 pounds; fourth, 375 pounds; fifth, 370 pounds, and sixth, 324 pounds.

He paid out over $50,000 in balances besides his tenants bought more than a dozen Fords and his tenants still have some credits on his books and are in good shape. He requires them to raise corn, hay and Louisiana cane for molasses. He has lost only two families.

Mr. Dockery sells mules to his tenants, one-half payable the first year and one-half the second year. He does not allow mortgages against the mules. The tenant must pay his debts out of the crop. He says he makes his money out of the crop and not out of the tenants. He sold $143,000 worth of merchandise in 1923, and had a profit of $6,000, after paying clerks. Most any other dealer selling that quantity of goods in the Delta would have had a net profit of $40,000, but much of it would have been out in unpaid debts.

Mr. Dockery's crop is sold through the Co-operative Cotton Association. He takes off 1½ cents per pound and credits tenants for the balance. He rents his land for one-fourth the cotton, one-fourth the seed, and corn land at $10 per acre. Pays oil mill prices for seed and crushes them in a co-operative mill at a profit of $2 to $6 per ton.

He has some white tenants, and handles all tenants on the same principle, demanding that they pay him all that is due and he does the same by them. M. R. Dockery accomplishes the foregoing favorable results by using the best of seed, and the best of fertilizers. He has been planting Delfos 6102 for several years, and considers it the best cotton he ever used. His plan is to have rows 3½ feet wide, stand left as close as practical, nearly 8 inches as possible, leaving two stalks to the hill and applies nitrate soda at the rate of 100 pounds per acre immediately after cotton is chopped out.

Mr. Dockery has been planting successfully since 1888. He finds some difficulty and disappointments in trying to train the younger negroes to assume the responsibility of their fathers.

In my opinion the coming farmers of the future must be supplied by the schools and colleges of the state and right now the most important matter in hand is to afford them such education and training as will fit them to understand preservation of the soil, and a concrete knowledge of how to get out of it the many products that it is capable of procuring profitably and the ability to comprehend the advantages of co-operative marketing.

Yours truly,

ISAIAH T. MONTGOMERY.

Agriculture – 1924.
Improvement of.

North Carolina.

JUN 6 1924

Colored Farmers Will Study Better Methods

V. Blackburn, teacher of vocational agriculture at the Harnett County Colored Training school here, will spend the summer months in teaching agriculture among the colored people of the county. A meeting at which plans for the work will be mapped out will be held at the school building Wednesday night, June 11, at 7:30 o'clock. All who are interested in the course of study are urged to attend the meeting.

Prof. Blackburn's class is making a special study of agriculture and is experimenting on the farm surrounding the school building. Several crops are now being grown, the work being done by the teacher and members of the class. Vegetables grown by the class are now being offered on the local market. The summer course is one which the colored farmers should take advantage of, as it is an opportunity to get a better insight of the problems which face the agricultural class.

Burlington N. C.
N. C. News

JUL - 8 1924

Negro Home Work Making Progress

The home project work of the students of Richmond Hilll and Alamance County Training school is going splendidly. The boys are making a good showing. Some of the boys who could not hook up a horse or plow a furrow when the work was begun last October can break land, run rows, plant seed nad cultivate well and have some among the best gardens in the community. The parents of these boys are showing a fine spirit towards the work. There has been some improvement along the line of poultry. There have been over 200 small pure bred chicks and over 100 eggs purchased for the children and parents of the community and the parents are anxiously waiting for the time when they can discard all their scrub stock and let the purebred fowls have the right of way. They have been awakened to the idea that scrub animals of any kind do not pay. There has been one pure bred Berkshire pig purchased and we hope to have more in a short time from which we shall raise so the boys can be supplid with good stock when they have animal projects and their parents as well.

We are also stressing the real dairy type of cows for the farmer, such as Jersey, Holstein, Ayershire and Guernsey. It pays if a farmer is going to have a milch cow at all and every farmer should have one, to have a cow of the dairy type.

WILMINGTON, N. C., Sta.

JUL 30 1924

ALAMANCE NEGROES ON FARM VISITATION TOUR ARRIVE HERE

Are To Make General Inspection Of Farming Methods Of East Carolina

Headed by J. W. Jeffries, negro, farm demonstration agent for Alamance county, 42 representative negro farmers of Alamance arrived in the city last night from Whiteville en route through eastern North Carolina on a farm visitation tour.

Jeffries and the negro farmers departed from Alamance some time ago in automobiles for the specific purpose of visiting numerous sections of east Carolina to gather general information regarding the methods of farming in this part of the state.

The party left this morning for a short visit to Hugh MacRae's farm at Castle Hayne and the state experiment station at Willard. They will visit Kenansville tomorrow.

Agriculture - 1924.

Texas.

Improvement of

Machinery Beating Texas Boll Weevil

DALLAS, Texas.—"Tex" is just naturally beating the boll weevil to the draw, to use a western term. In other words, Texas is raising cotton and making hundreds of millions of dollars from the job, and is doing it with machinery instead of under the old one-nigger-and-a-mule system of cotton production.

Such is the conclusion of the Research Department of the National Association of Farm Equipment Manufacturers, which recently co-operated with the Texas A. & M. College, among dealer representatives of its members in staging demonstrations in East Texas. Hundreds of intensely interested cotton growers, bankers and business men and their wives and children attended these meetings, and Alabama, Georgia, the Carolinas and Mississippi are already asking for similar field demonstrations to show the labor saving devices that permit one man to do the work of four or more at plowing, seeding and cultivating cotton.

"Texas raised over 43% of the cotton last year, and expects to raise more than half this year. Plantings have been greatly extended up into the Panhandle, and over through central Texas towards the New Mexican border. Since last year's crop was worth over $622,000,000 to the farmers of Texas, they expect to take in close to three-quarters of a billion dollars on their cotton the coming year if prices stay up.

"One man driving a single mule can plow 1 acre a day; he doubles that work with two mules. If he hitches 4 mules to his gang plow he can do as much as 5 men and five mules; while with a tractor he can plow 8 to 14 acres a day, depending on the number of plow bottoms. In bedding, planting and cultivation the same multiplication of one man's work by using bigger machines holds good. It takes three trips across the field to cultivate one row the old way, and a 2-row cultivator, such as the Texans are buying, makes one trip take the place of six.

AGRICULTURE-1924
Labor Conditions

Agriculture — 1924
Labor Conditions
(Peonage Here)
See Also: Labor

Agriculture—1924
Labor Conditions.

Alabama.

MACON MULE SALES BRISK AS SPRING DRAWS NEAR

Labor Going Back to Farms Instead of Public Work.

TUSKEGEE ALA., Feb. 5.—Special to The Advertiser—W. E. Huddelston left Monday on his third trip to Kentucky for the purpose of buying mules for the local market. He has already disposed of two car loads, and feels sure that he will find a ready sale for at least two more loads.

Other live stock dealers in Tuskegee are meeting with unexpected success in the sale of mules. As spring approaches there is an increased interest in farming, and a large number of hands that expected to be engaged in public work have decided to go back to the farm.

Agriculture — 1924.
Labor Conditions.

California.

Negro Farmers Move in as Japanese Farmers Move Out

The land laws of California, which were being enforced before the restriction in the new immigration law became a fact, and which prevented the Japanese from owning or leasing land in California, had the effect of so crippling the fruit and vegetable industries of the State as to threaten to affect the demand for fruit and vegetable products in the whole country. Indeed, a very long and loud wail over the possible shortage went up and it was not unreasonable.

The Japanese farmers and farmworkers in California carried the fruit and vegetable industries to the very highest point of productivity and values, as the Japanese, just like the Chinese, are among the most efficient and industrious workers in the world. Indeed, it is because they are such, with the added virtue of temperance in eating and drinking and the ability to save and advantageously invest their earnings, which makes them undesirable competitors of white labor not only in California but everywhere.

6-21-24

As business men the Japanese are very shrewd; as workers they are steady and efficient, and they will not stand to be robbed and mistreated, as the Chinese and Negroes are disposed to be. And the Japanese stand together as business men and wage-earners. We have got to learn to do so more and more.

Word comes through our newspapers in California that as the Japanese land owners and workers are compelled to move out Negro labor is being drawn upon largely to supply their places. One man's loss is usually another man's gain. The rule works that way. Let us hope that our laborers will be found equal to the work the Japanese have been compelled to abandon. They should be. The climate is just such as they thrive in best, or are said to, but we have found that they appear to thrive in one climate as well as in another, and it should be easy for them to adapt themselves to the requirements of fruit and vegetable farming. We believe that it will be. If they make good in California, and why should they not? there will be other openings of like advantage and profit to them, in the Pacific Coast States.

The Negro must be original Children of the Sun, of Is-Ra-El, as the Lord appears to make an opening for them where none appeared to exist.

Agriculture – 1924.
Labor Conditions.
JAN 25 1924

Georgia

WASHINGTON, GA. [illegible]

CAMPAIGN TO GET WHITE TENANT FARMERS TAKING DEFINITE SHAPE

The plan inaugurated two weeks ago by Secretary Guy Guthridge, of the Board of Trade, to bring into Wilkes county white tenant farmers on a three-year lease proposition, with an option to buy in the lease, is taking definite shape, and the results so far obtained are most gratifying.

Small ads. were run in two farm publications, seeking white farmers for Wilkes county lands, and already replies are coming in from a most desirable class of men.

The plan in a nutshell is to secure white tenant farmers who will come into the county, who will put their experience in diversified farming — especially poultrymen and dairymen—and their equipment against the land, and go into partnership with the land-owner on a fifty-fifty basis, the land-owner giving the tenant an option to buy the farm which he occupies.

From 80 to 150 acres are required, with residence suitable for a white family and with other improvements necessary to the line of farming to be followed.

Want More Farms.

Secretary Guthridge states that he has already ten such farms, upon which he expects to locate tenants under the above outlined plans; but he, wants more farms—many more.

In the opinion of a good many men who have studied the plan, the number of white farmers that can be brought into the county is limited only to the number of farms that can be obtained which are suitable for the purpose.

Mr. Guthridge is extremely anxious to list every available farm in the county as early as possible, and to this end The News-Reporter is requested to urge all land-owners who are interested in making their farms profitable, and ultimately selling them, and at the same time materially assisting the county as a whole, to see Mr. Guthridge at his offices in the Green building at the earliest moment and let him go more thoroughly into the details of the plan.

New Citizens Valuable.

There are many farms in the county that have not produced enough revenue to their owners during the past few years to pay the taxes upon them. The owners of such farms, under the plan, can not only assist in bringing in valuable new citizens, but can make these farms, now only an expense, bring in a good profit.

Every new family brought into the county means a great deal to every phase of life, especially in a business way. If a hundred white families are brought in under the fifty-fifty plan there is not a business in the county but what will feel the effects of their coming.

The plan, in the opinion of many local men who have studied it, is practical and sound, and will be a success if the farms can be secured upon which to locate the farmers.

Again, if you have a farm that meets the requirements, see Mr. Guthridge at once. It will mean a great deal to you and to Wilkes county.

"BACK TO THE FARM."

A heavy back-to-the-farm movement has set in and the United States government is preparing to aid it in a practical way.

Atlanta will be made Georgia headquarters for the placement of farm workers and Francis T. Jones, director-general of the United States employment service, has asked the Atlanta Consolidated Employment service to undertake this work for the state.

To make this feasible the government will give the consolidated employment service additional help to place farm workers.

The importance of this step will be realized when it is remembered that fully fifty thousand farm laborers left Georgia last year, and it was reported that almost that number of farms were vacated.

City life has proved a disappointment to many and there is an evident desire to return to the farm. The Atlanta Consolidated Employment service already has many applications for farm work.

Heretofore the work of the Atlanta Consolidated Employment service has been in industrial and commercial life. Since it began operations on the first of last March it has secured employment for 3,078 persons whose earnings during the nine months have been about two million dollars.

To do this an immense volume of work was done. There were 29,188 interviews and telephone calls and 12,574 persons were registered and investigated. The service handles a wide range of activities from common labor to trained executives. 1-20-24

Employers as a rule do not realize the fact that high-class help can be had through this service. It is no uncommon thing for it to place college graduates with special training in some of the largest industries where a high degree of efficiency is demanded.

Several of the great industrial corporations are securing such men through this service and putting them in training for important work.

The greatest demand, however, and most of the placements of adult help are for skilled mechanics. There is no trouble in finding employment for skilled labor, but it is harder to get work for the unskilled. Thousands who left the farm looking for work in the city, find it hard to get employment because they have no special training.

Every day's experience shows the value of training for some useful work and many a tragedy shows up at the service headquarters when a "ne'er-do-well," without skill, begs for a job that others would not have.

The Atlanta employment service officials have letters of appreciation from Director General Jones, of the United States employment service, and Frank T. Hines, director of the Veterans' bureau, for cooperation in placing rehabilitated veterans. Superintendent W. A. Sutton, of the Atlanta public schools, has warmly commended the service for securing work for school boys and girls.

The present service was opened last March by the consolidation of the work of the Employers' association, the school employment service, junior division of the United States employment service and the Young Women's Christian association, represented respectively by J. P. McGrath, Miss Essie Roberts and Miss Page Tucker.

Chairman Cator Woolford, of the advisory committee, has contributed much time and money to building up the service to its present high state of efficiency.

Agriculture - 1924.
Labor Conditions.

General.

NEGROES STUDY FARMING.

The extension department of the Georgia State College of Agriculture, coordinating with the extension department in Florida, recently conducted a party of more than fifty of Georgia's most thrifty negro farmers through an inspection and study tour of the potato and vegetable sections of Florida.

The tour, under the personal direction of E. A. Williams, of Savannah, state agent for negro work, covered a week's time, and it was entirely devoted to an educational inspection of the scientific methods employed in the growing of produce, the harvesting and crating of the same, and the methods of cooperative marketing that are so satisfactorily employed.

At every place the Georgia party visited, leading farmers, white and colored, showed every possible courtesy in the demonstration work; and the visit to different sections was usually marked by outdoor lectures fully and practically explaining the methods employed on the successful farms, and in packing houses.

Commenting on the tour the Jacksonville Times-Union said:

"The many opportunities on Florida farms were as keenly observed by the Florida farmers as by those from Georgia, and the real value of the Farm and Home Makers' Clubs was brought out. It was not a mere sightseeing trip but was undertaken by the visitors to learn the reasons for the success of the negro farmers of this state. Therefore, the program was strictly educational. Note books were in constant use by the visitors on the various farms visited. These farmers had asked the privilege of coming to this state to study the methods of our negro farmers, their attention being attracted by reports of the great success in production and marketing of the latter."

In a letter addressed to The Constitution by E. A. Williams, who led the party, he gives one concrete illustration of the practical benefits that the tour accomplished for Georgia:

"Numbers of negro farmers of Georgia are leaving the state because they are discouraged; so this tour was planned to teach, by observation and comparison, the wonderful possibilities Georgia holds for the law-abiding, thrifty, industrious negro farmer.

"Since returning from this tour, John R. Billups, who owns 700 acres of land in Clarke county and who had planned to go north, has written: 'It affords me great pleasure to write you, as you are aware of the fact that we all enjoyed a good time in Florida. I can't tell you what the trip meant to me. You know I have lost money during the last four years, and I had almost decided to give up, but since making that trip and seeing what those folks in Florida are doing, I have made up my mind I am going to hit it harder than I have ever, and if they can make it, I can too.'

"Billups' letter expresses the opinion of the average farmer who went on this tour."

It is a matter of general comment in farm periodicals that the negro farmers of Florida, as a whole, are doing splendidly, and it is hoped that the negro farmers of Georgia will catch the spirit that was so forcibly impressed during the tour. There are a great number of substantial negro farmers in this state, and those who are not successful can very probably become so if they will apply the knowledge that the extension service is imparting, and work—the latter factor being a controlling one in every worth-while endeavor.

SOCIAL SAM AGAIN.

To The Commercial Appeal.

On my return from a little trip to Washington, Teapot Dome and Dohenyville, for the purpose of studying the beauties of capitalism, I was handed a copy of the paper in which you spoke some kind things about me, in connection with my suggestion that the owners of plantations provide something a little better in the way of house accommodations for their tenants than they do for their mules. I thank you, sir, for the kind words. "Praise from Sir Charles is praise indeed." And if my communications have been characterized by a courtesy which is sometimes lacking in the utterances of the prophets of the new dispensation, it may be that the example of Sir Charles in this respect has controlled my keyboard.

But at the same time I was handed a copy of your issue of the 23d, by which I learn from the first editorial article that "Delta planters have notified Capt. W. F. Widgery of the Salvation Army that they can place 150 white families and 300 negro families." Perhaps the 300 negroes may respond, but how about the whites? There is certainly no such proportion between white and negro farmers anywhere in the Delta, and it is obvious that these planters expect to plant white men in the "tenant houses" heretofore occupied by negroes—doubtless after fumigating and delousing them. But will the white men respond? Nary a time. The call of the planters will be as resultless as the call of Owen Glendower for spirits from the vasty deep. White men will not live in the shacks provided for negro tenants.

There is a saying, much quoted, from a very venerable volume, to the effect that "thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out thy corn." I can not think of any cheaper way of applying the principle of this ancient maxim to the relation of planter and tenant than to give the tenant ox a decent stall.

Newspapers spend a lot of money in publicity. I do not think it is all spent from sordid motives. I do not believe that the owners of The Commercial Appeal, in installing their radio service, for instance, expected to get back, in subscriptions and advertising, anything like the money they knew it would cost them. In fact, I think they were just giving a potlatch, like the Indians of our northwest coast, and expected to get their reward from the handsome remarks which would greet them on every hand.

Why not start some sort of a contest among the architects hereabouts for plans for tenant houses which would combine cheapness with comfort and decency? I have no doubt but that the members of that profession would throw themselves into the contest con amore, for I imagine that a dwelling unfit for human habitation is as offense to an architect as a cancer case is to a physician.

A few years ago, when I was trying to teach the Chicago judges what real law was, I encountered an architect who was putting up a great many houses for the accommodation of the workers in the local steel plant of the United States Steel Company at Duluth, Minn. They were all of concrete and his statement of the cost astounded me, but, unfortunately, I do not recall his figures.

But interest your local architects in the question and see if you can shame plantation owners into housing their tenants as decently as they house their mules.

SOCIAL SAM.

Negro Labor Never Again Plentiful

JUST after Congress passed the new immigration law, The Progressive Farmer pointed out that it would have very important effects on Southern agriculture. As we then stated, the United States for many years has been receiving vast hordes of low-grade laborers from Southern Europe. These laborers have been largely depended on for factory, mining, railroad, and construction work in the North. With this labor supply from Europe cut off, it is inevitable that Northern industries will draw more and more on the Negro labor of the South for reinforcements. This opinion, expressed by us some months ago, is confirmed by a discussion of the matter in *The Economic World* of New York, which says:—

"It certainly will not be an easy matter to find in our own population unskilled workers to take the place of an annual increment of the half a million or more immigrants for whom unskilled work under American conditions and at American wages has seemed a magnificent opportunity. The first economic readjustment which the new immigration law may be expected to make necessary in this country, therefore, is the competitive drafting of all available groups of unskilled workers in our population to do the rough work of our industries, construction projects, and undertakings of a similar character. . . . The largest group of unskilled workers in the country consists of the Negroes in the South, who are still predominantly employed in raising cotton and other agricultural products. It is now unavoidable that the Southern Negroes, especially those on the farms, should be drawn upon by our industries, railroads, etc., to fill the need for unskilled labor to an extent much exceeding anything heretofore known."

Birmingham, Ala.

Southern farmers heretofore have often complained of a "shortage of labor" when the shortage was due only to a failure to use modern equipment and machinery. At the same time, it must be admitted that cotton and tobacco require an unusual proportion of hand labor even under the most favorable conditions. But our farmers might as well face the fact that farm labor here in the South in the future is going to be both scarcer and higher priced than ever before. To meet this changed situation, certain changes in our farming policies are necessary, and the wise farmer will be the one who makes these changes in time without waiting until financial disaster forces him to.

The most important change made necessary by the new condition is the enrichment of our soil. Since it is going to be more expensive to cultivate an acre of land than ever before, we must get more out of an acre.

The second change in prospect is the greater use of improved implements and machinery. If we must pay farm labor more per day, then we must get larger returns from a day's work. Horse labor is cheaper than human labor. Improved implements and machinery enable one man to cultivate a larger acreage. By enriching our soils and using more machinery, we can produce enough cotton or tobacco from a much smaller acreage than we are now planting to these crops, while the improved equipment will enable us to grow our own corn, small grain, hay, and feed crops and so have our "money crops" as true surplus crops.

Will You Study It?

The work of the Manufacturers Record during the last 42 years has resulted in bringing into this section billions of capital; but even the value of this money is, in our opinion, far less significant to this section than the stimulation which has been created in the minds and hearts of Southern people about the boundless resources of this section and the enthusiasm which it has brought into existence on the part of Southern people for the upbuilding of their country.

From the day this paper was established it became the source of information about the South. It soon established what might be called a census bureau, constantly compiling from month to month, and year to year, and publishing in its own columns and in pamphlets and circulars, and in its "Blue Book of Southern Progress," facts about the South which have been distributed to the extent of many millions of copies. This literature has been sent year after year to the leading newspapers of America. It has been furnished to public speakers in the South and in the North and West, in Congress and in the pulpit, for nearly every important address which has been made on the South during that period.

From the day when Henry Grady wired this office for statistics about Southern growth to be used in his great Dallas address, up to the present time, this paper has been drawn upon by many thousands of others who sought information for public addresses. School boys constantly write for suggestions for their commencement speeches; college presidents have used its facts and figures constantly; commencement orators have done likewise. It has been said, and we believe truthfully, that it is more widely quoted in Congress than any other paper in the land. During the war, Dr. Newell Dwight Hillis, shortly after his return from the battlefields of France, in a public address said:

"Though the Manufacturers Record is published only once a week, I saw it quoted in Europe more often than any daily paper published in the United States."

The Manufacturers Record has often persuaded some of the great business organizations of the country to hold their annual meetings in the South. Among these have been such associations as the American Iron and Steel Institute, the National Association of Cotton Manufacturers, the American Electrochemical Society, and many others. But perhaps, as we have said, the greatest good it has done for the South is the inspiration which it has given to Southern people, the stimulation to the people of this section to look to the development of their own region rather than to seek opportunities for employment in other sections.

Some years ago the Manufacturers Record issued a special publication entitled "Bankers' Edition," a copy of which was sent at its expense to every bank and banker in the United States, and this was only in keeping with the methods which we have followed in one form or another in such publications as "Thirty Years of Southern Upbuilding," "The South the Nation's Greatest Asset," the annual editions of the "Blue Book of Southern Progress," and other things which have been widely distributed in all parts of this country and throughout Europe. One edition some years ago was so highly regarded by Mr. Stuyvesant Fish, president of the Illinois Central Railroad, that he bought 10,000 copies and had nearly all of them mailed direct to leading people in Europe.

All the work which we have been doing reaches for the present its highest point in the publication of

THE SOUTH'S DEVELOPMENT { ***A Glimpse of the Past.*** ***The Facts of the Present.*** ***A Forecast of the Future.***

This is the crowning work of this publication up to the present time. Perhaps we shall surpass it in importance and extent of circulation in the years to come, but we know not. It will be difficult ever to do so.

We commend to every reader of this paper an earnest study of what they will find in "THE SOUTH'S DEVELOPMENT" as the broadest treatment of the South, past, present and future, that has ever yet been given to the public. And we can say this without egotism because so many of the special articles are by men in no way connected with this paper. We can easily guarantee that every man or woman who reads a copy will be grateful for the privilege. Have you ordered a copy or copies?

THE INCOME TAX PROBLEM.

E. H. DAVIDSON, managing director of the Citizens Alliance of St. Paul, Minn., writing to the MANUFACTURERS RECORD in regard to the suggestion recently made that so long as the income tax stands, every man and woman should be required to make a report of their income under oath, regardless of whether they have enough income to require to be taxed or not, writes:

"How would it be if, instead of starting in on the general public and the average payer of income taxes, we put the members of Congress on the grill first? I imagine a sworn statement from members of Congress as to all sources of income and outgo would be tremendously interesting to the public at large. Any newspaper that could get the exclusive rights for publishing the findings would make a fortune in itself. We agree with you absolutely that as long as we are going to start this kind of espionage, we begin on the people responsible for it—begin with Congress itself."

The very suggestion that Mr. Davidson makes, that this would develop an interesting situation in which Congressmen would have to swear to their income, would probably make very many Congressmen loath to pass such a bill. Nevertheless, we are satisfied that the suggestion is a good one. There is no more reason why the man who has an income of $5000 or $500,000 should be required to swear to his income than why the man or the woman who has $500 or $1000 income should not swear to his or her income. The effect would be good from many points of view. It would cause all the people of the country to see some of the iniquities connected with the income tax situation, and it would discover millions of men and women whose income is sufficiently great to justify their paying an income tax so long as that system prevails but who do not now do so. Millions whose incomes are now sufficiently large to come under the income tax law, but who escape it by not being called upon to make returns, are robbing the country and robbing those who do pay income tax.

There is no system now prevailing which enables the Government to find out all who do have incomes sufficient to justify their being on the income tax list. More or less it is a voluntary thing where honest people who come in that class voluntarily to a large extent report their incomes. But the Government makes no thorough search of the entire country to find out who is liable, and thus millions pay no income taxes.

Under the plan proposed by the MANUFACTURERS RECORD the system would be as complete as the census in taking the population, and every man and woman in the country would, under oath, be compelled to make a return, however small their income might be.

Agriculture—1924.

General.

Labor Conditions

FARM LIFE AND THE NEGRO

In the past twenty-five years many changes have come to the farmer. Important among these changes are intelligence and the diversification of crops. To farm properly and successfully requires intelligence and training coupled with a reasonable amount of physical strength. Twenty-five years ago, maybe less than that, the Negro and the mule, a hoe and plow, a tree, mall and wedge were about the only facilities and assets of the farmer. These implements are necessary now, but they are being replaced rapidly by brain culture and inventions in machinery that make cultivation and farming an easy task.

There is a great opportunity on the farm for the Negro and especially is this true in the South where his ability and training in this direction are superior to any other race group and where his worth and fitness have long since been proven. There is a respectable and profitable livelihood on the farm and this is proven from the reports and activities of thousands of Negro farmers throughout the Southern States.

Less than twenty years ago there were almost no educational facilities in the rural districts for colored people. This is not true now. Improvements have been going rapidly and the advantages in many of our country districts are far better than city life when we are to consider the evil tendencies and temptations in the city that are impossible for the country. There is respect now for farm labor never before known and this is an assurance of civil protection and commercial encouragement. Our business institutions would do well to put out some form of instruction and advance means for the guidance and aid of our worthy and industrious farmers. Certainly no investment could be more secure when all the details and arrangements are clearly and satisfactorily worked out.

There is no question on the point that too many of our people are crowding into unfamiliar city life and leaving the farms where their ability is best suited, and this moving is decreasing race value in character, health and material substances. Opportunities with a common sense brain operating on the farm are better for our people and they should be encouraged to develop the soil more with a thought of greater profit rather than be persuaded to the frolic, gaity and destruction of city life.

It is altogether impossible to control and properly direct the large mass of Negro people who are crowding into the cities unheralded and unmet. Not that they represent less character than the city Negro or city people, but they are needed on the farms as are many of the people who are now in the cities. And if a reasonable and normal number can be persuaded to remain on the farm, race value and race character can be more rapidly developed and the expansion of our wealth and usefulness more perpetually and substantially made.

We are not unmindful of the many hardships of farm life, where one must of necessity labor for unscrupulous and unfair task masters, and we remember now the awful evil of the lease system as so generously practiced by the man who desires something for nothing, but notwithstanding this, the conditions are rapidly changing and the more intelligence and manhood we keep on the farm, the more rapidly and successfully will this abuse of defenseless Negroes cease to be. What we need is ability to manage our affairs and the confidence of those who may be exploited by the merciless and unfair landlord. And then, too, all the troubles, woe and misery are not to be found exclusively in these remote areas. There are conditions just as miserable practiced upon a certain group life in many cities as could possibly be found on the farm. Everywhere it is a question of being prepared to successfully combat the evil. And it is our mind that our best battling ground is on the farm.

There will always be a sufficient number of Negroes in our plants, mines and industrial institutions and we need not give any worry on this point.

WHITE SETTLERS FOR THE SOUTH

From the beginning of the negro migration northward it has been evident that the movement, despite its temporary disadvantage, might be turned to the ultimate benefit of the South. This newspaper repeatedly has urged an organized search for white settlers of desirable type to take the places of the negroes leaving our agricultural lands, says the New Orleans Picayune. It has suggested that terms sufficiently liberal and fair to attract such settlers would prove mutually advantageous, and that no other kind of terms would attract settlers of the right type in sufficient numbers or prove of permanent benefit.

Organized efforts to that end are now under way in various sections of the South. The Southern Alluvial Land Association is seeking the cooperation of Washington authorities in working out a plan of "selective immigration," under which it is hoped to bring in agricultural immigrants of assured desirability, for permanent settlement upon Southern farms. While this ambitions program is under consideration, local organizations here and there are at work with more modest settlement projects.

The arrival of an advance guard of Canadian farmers was recently reported from a South Mississippi county. Our own St. Tammany parish has entertained a party of Canadian prospectors and is hopeful of results in terms of new and highly desirable settlers. Word came from Laurel, Miss., last week that its Chamber of Commerce is backing a project for colonization of 500 thrifty farm families—north Europeans, who already have been "Americanized"—upon farm lands near that city. Twenty-five farms, it is added, already have been prepared for their occupancy.

During the next few years dozens of similar projects should be and doubtless will be launched. If these succeed—and there is excellent reason to believe that they will wherever sound organization is followed up by fair treatment of the newcomers—the movement of desirable white settlers this way will gather headway and before long will march under its own power.

MEMPHIS TENN APPEAL
JANUARY 10, 1924

Negro Tenants

A few days ago The News Scimitar printed an editorial in denial of a statement made by a writer in Collier's who said that he "grew up to dislike negroes generally, just as almost everybody in the South does for no particular reason except 'that a nigger is a nigger.'" The writer added that he "came to manhood with a Southerner's dislike and contempt for black folks." The statement was so far at variance with our own experience, observation and associations that we were not willing for it to go unchallenged.

The article in The News Scimitar provoked a communication from a well-known planter at Duncan, Miss., who writes:

> For your information with reference to the editorial attached, wish to advise that you are just as far wrong in your version of the white tenants as the gentleman you refer to is of the negroes.
>
> I have worked negro labor for past 15 years, and I hate to admit that I find them very unreliable at all times; very hard to please and disagreeable; they are the hardest people to get along with; they are void of principle, have no appreciation regardless of what you might do for them. Your best negro friend could be persuaded by an-

> ...y who, withou...
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> ...m: they attack no...
> ...t the phantom of ...
> ...wn imagination.
>
> —*La Bruyere.*

her negro to stab you in the back 'r $5 or less.

On the other hand, the white tenants are very loyal and do their work without having a rider to look after them. They are easily pleased in every way—only want you to do what you promise.

In 1923 I had 18 negro families and four whites. All of the white people made good crops and cleared money. None of the negroes a cent; came out badly in debt. For this year I have 16 white families and six negro families. The white people are through breaking; the negroes haven't plowed a furrow. You evidently got your information from the large planters who won't use white labor because they can't get all they make. If you could talk with some of the Mississippi delta farmers since they have used white labor your ideas might be different.

We do not pose as infallible or incapable of error. We are so often wrong that it is embarrassing. We have never been able to cultivate the air of cocksureness or the conviction that it is impossible for us to be wrong. It is a gift. We must confess we do not possess it, but when someone rises up to inform us that we are wrong in our estimation of the negro; that we do not know the attitude of the decent white man toward the negro or that we do not know all about negro tenants, that is where we rebel. It happens to be one subject upon which we are informed by heredity, environment and association. There is not much that anyone can tell the writer of this article—who was born on a farm, reared in a county with a background of slavery, where the negro population predominates at the ratio of four negroes to one white—about the negro.

The gentleman says he has worked negro labor 15 years, finds the negroes unreliable, disagreeable and hard to please. We can not explain it, but if we knew more about him, it would probably be easily understood. If his experience with negroes is of only 15 years' duration, it is too short a time for him to understand the race or its problems. We know families that have had experience with negro labor more than 100 years, and it is their judgment that we accept.

If we thought our best negro friend could be induced to stab us in the back for $5 we would be ashamed to admit it. Any man ought to be capable of cultivating stronger ties of friendship than that.

The reference to white tenants is perhaps well deserved, but the industrious, thrifty white tenant does not properly come under the classification. White families of that type are not going to be tenants very long. They are going to own their own farms, and while some of our delta friends believe they have solved the labor problem by supplying the places made vacant by negro migration by white tenants, they are merely sounding the death-knell of the large plantation.

The average white man is not a tenant farmer. He does not rear his children to be tenants. He does not come of a servile or inferior race. The most disagreeable, the most exacting, the most difficult white man to get along with and the one over which we say the negro is to be preferred is the white tenant who is satisfied to be a tenant, and has no ambition for himself or his children, no desire to possess his own vine and fig tree. Anyone who has had experience with this class of perpetual tenantry will agree that the negro tenant is far more desirable.

Our correspondent is mistaken in assuming that our information comes from planters who prefer negroes to whites because they can not get all the white tenants make. That may be responsible for the conclusions of some planters, and we have been reliably informed that such a condition sometimes prevails to an amazing extent. It will not be denied that this form of dishonesty is largely responsible for negro migration, and those who were the chief beneficiaries of dishonest dealing have been rewarded by tenantless farms and they have gotten their just deserts.

Gazette, Ga.
JAN 1 1 1924

WHITE SETTLERS FOR THE SOUTH.

From The New Orleans Times-Picayune.

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SIOUX CITY IA TRIBUNE
MAY 22, 1924

Mexican Laborers in Great Numbers Are Replacing Negroes Who Formerly Tilled Southern Plantations

Rollin Lynde in World's Work.

The migration of southern negroes is benefiting the Mexican.

Picturesque in his bright blue overalls and brass-mounted sombrero, he walks across the border to replace the departing negro.

Despite his littleness, he commands great energy, great endurance.

The south accepts him. Though darker than the "high yellow" negro and only a few shades lighter than the "sealskin black" he is technically a white man.

His children can enter white schools. Through them he will learn English, and learn American ways.

He will then be less at the mercy of unscrupulous labor agents than he is now, and Mexicans will cross the border in steadily increasing numbers, bringing their large families along with them.

Promoters of the negro migration seem disturbed when I speak of Mexicans.

About southern projects to replace the negro with Nordics and with farm machinery they care little, apparently thinking them impractical; but Mexicans—only too vividly they can see cotton-fields teeming with wiry little brown aliens, part Indian, part Spanish.

Says a negro leader: "The southern black man has come north, not knowing if he can stick it out, and now he begins to hear that the Mexican has got his job and he can't go back."

This implies that the migrant is still on probation in the north, and so he is. Can he survive there? Will he?

About the migration there is something religious. It has its bibical slogans: negroes talk of "Canaan," of "the flight out of Egypt," of migrants who come north with songs and with banners.

They say whole churches come, led by their preachers.

And migration has its martyrs. Tuberculosis, pneumonia, and the "flu" have not checked the movement. Race riots have not.

After the horrible Chicago riot, emissaries from the south promised negroes free transportation, better wages, and better working conditions if they would return. They declined.

Rather than yield, they would endure anything.

When hard times came, a rabble of unemployed negroes in Chicago repaired to the lake front, built huts out of stones and driftwood, and established a city within a city.

They had their own mayor, their own police department, and another known as the "culinary department." There they hung on persistently until business picked up.

"The chief cause of migration at present," observed Robert L. Vann, editor of the Pittsburg Courier, when I called upon him in his sanctum and law office, "is the disillusionment that has spread far and wide through our black race since the war.

"Ignorant southern negroes in the camps encountered the word 'democracy' for the first time, and wondered what it meant.

"Later on, in France, they saw white people willing to eat beside them in restaurants and sit beside them in trains, and wondered what that could mean.

"Then it struck them.

" 'This must be democracy,' they said. 'It's that mysterious thing we're fighting for. It's what we're going to have in America when we get home.'

"Their discovery that the black man was Jim-Crowed in the south after the war, precisely as he had been Jim-Crowed in the south before the war, bred a great discontent, a great restlessness, a great determination somehow to escape."

Agriculture—1924.
Labor Condition

Louisiana.

LOUISIANA IN TWO YEARS GETS 200 FARMER FAMILIES

Denechaud Says Restrictive Immigration Laws Check Inflow.

Baton Rouge, La., July 4.—Two hundred families have come to Louisiana in the last two years to engage in agricultural pursuits, according to Justin F. Denechaud, secretary of the immigration division of the Louisiana department of agriculture and immigration, in his biennial report to Commissioner Harry D. Wilson. Pointing out that this number is not as great as the usual number coming into the state, the secretary explained that this fact was due to the scarcity of large colonization companies now operating within the state, and because none of the owners of large tracts of land in Louisiana have been exerting themselves to attract new settlers to this state.

The present restrictive immigration laws, according to the immigration secretary, have prevented farmers from Europe settling in Louisiana during that period and the European immigrants that have come to this country seem to be relatives of those who are engaged in industrial and commercial pursuits.

Mr. Denechaud says the immigration division issues yearly a land and sale bulletin which contains names of owners of tracts of land that are for sale. A land inquiry letter, containing the names of parties desirous of purchasing Louisiana land, is also issued.

"Thousands of boxes containing samples of Louisiana's agricultural products such as cotton bolls, lint cotton, cotton seed, pieces of sugar cane, rice, etc., are being sent out each year to museums, colleges, universities and schools," the secretary says, "and literature, such as state maps, the land for sale bulletin, Louisiana land progress booklet, etc., are constantly being distributed."

The immigration division co-operates with the bureau of naturalization of the United States department of labor to the end that the foreign born population of Louisiana become Americanized, according to Mr. Denechaud, and efforts along this line have been successful.